



DECISION DUE ON £28m RAIL HUB

Report by David Cosgrove

LONG-AWAITED plans for a rail innovation centre in Dudley have moved a step closer after the scheme was recommended for approval by council bosses.

Outline plans for the £28 million project in Dudley's Castle Hill are due to be given the green light by councillors on Monday.

The Very Light Rail Innovation Centre and testing track is part of a scheme by Warwick Manufacturing Group, which struck a deal with Dudley Council two years ago.

Council chiefs have promised the 'world class' centre will create 225 jobs, 331 apprenticeships and 33 new businesses by 2021. Dudley Council's cabinet member for leisure, Khurshid Ahmed, said: "This new innovation centre will be an example of Dudley making history once again."



Proposed light rail hub

at the forefront of innovation and that new technology created at the centre will help transport not just nationally but also internationally. This will help the people of Dudley, create jobs and will also be an iconic building for people to visit.

"Ministers are very keen for this development to happen, we've got a commitment from the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and are also confident we will get European funding."

Tunnel

A 'very light rail' line will run from a newly-built technology centre at the bottom of Castle Hill, through Dudley Tunnel and terminating close to Cinder Bank.

The site was last used as British Rail freight-liner depot but closed during the late 1980s, as well as housing Dudley railway station, which closed in the mid 1960s.

The council report states: "The proposal would retain provision for the Metro line, passenger and rail freight. It is considered that the proposed development would have no undue harm on the historic environment. The development will also contribute towards delivery of council plan priorities such as regeneration, jobs, education and health."

A statement on the Very Light Rail (VLR) website says: "The Innovation Centre will serve as a hub for industry and academia. There is a lot of potential for VLR vehicles to be used on disused branch lines across the UK."

POWER OF HOPE UNITES MALALA AND ARCHBISHOP



Malala Yousafzai and the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby spoke at the Power of Hope event at Dudley College on Saturday

'BELIEVE in yourself and dream beyond limits' - that was the message to young people from teenager Malala Yousafzai as she spoke with the Archbishop of Canterbury in Dudley.

The 19-year-old, who survived an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen in Pakistan four years ago and is the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke passionately about education, women's rights, religion and faith in front of audience at Dudley College on Saturday.

Malala, who now lives in Birmingham, said she wanted her appearance alongside Archbishop Justin Welby to be a message of 'religious and cultural harmony' that would inspire young people, especially women, to stand up for what they believed.

She told the audience at the Power of Hope event at the college that she decided to make a stand demanding that girls be allowed to receive an education in 2009 after the Taliban banned girls from attending school in her home province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

"I knew if I couldn't get my education, I couldn't get on with my life," she said.

Malala began blogging for the BBC but her views led to her being shot in the head by a gunman on her school bus on October 9, 2012. She was airlifted to Birmingham, where she was treated for life-threatening injuries at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Since her recovery she has become an advocate for girls' education and women's rights, speaking around the globe.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby spoke of his admiration for Malala and how her faith and belief in education had inspired her determination.

The following day the sound of hymns filled Merry Hill when the Archbishop was joined by the Bishop of Dudley Graham Usher and Bishop of Worcester John Inge for a songs of praise style service at the shopping centre.

The Black Country leg of the Archbishop's three-day tour of the Diocese of Worcester also included a visit to a refugee support project at Halesowen United Reformed Church and a meeting with Dudley Interfaith Network.

The Archbishop also enjoyed a pint at Ma Pardoe's in Netherton.

COLLISION

Man dies in hospital after being hit by car

A PEDESTRIAN has died after being struck by a car in Stourbridge.

The 35-year-old man died after the incident on High Street, Amblecote, near to Vicarage Road at around 2.35pm on Sunday. He was treated at the scene by paramedics but died in hospital later that day.

Sergeant Alan Wood, from the Regional Collision Investigation Unit, said: "The driver of the car stopped at the scene and is assisting officers with the investigation."

Witnesses are asked to contact Sgt Wood and his team by calling 101.

ATTACK

Two arrests made over street stabbing

DUDLEY was rocked by two stabbings over the weekend. Two boys, aged 14 and 15, were arrested in connection with a suspected knife attack in Sedgley High Street on Sunday night. An 18-year-old man was airlifted to hospital in a critical condition.

Officers were also called at 5.35pm on Saturday to a stabbing at Shadwell Drive, Lower Gornal. A 22-year-old man was taken to hospital in a stable condition. Three 15-year-old boys were arrested then released on police bail.

YOUTH

Children's home set to close down

A CHILDREN'S home in Brierley Hill is to close. Parkes Street Children's Home will shut following a review, in a move saving Dudley Council £670,000 a year.

The size and location of the building was said to be unsuitable for children's needs. The council also said calls to police to deal with incidents at the six-bed home had reached an 'unacceptable level'.

The home was closed temporarily in April and bosses at Dudley Council have now decided it should shut for good - putting 73 jobs at risk. Chiefs said discussions would take place with trade unions and staff regarding the closure.

INSIDE

BRIERLEY HILL'S GOT TALENT



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Teenage football thug put behind bars



Daniel Lloyd – locked up

A TEENAGE thug from Sedgley who was part of a gang of yobs who attacked a football fan and left him for dead after a Wolves match has been locked up for two years.

Daniel Lloyd, 19, punched Watford supporter Nic Cruwys, causing him to trip and hit his head on the ground in Littles Lane in the city.

Mr Cruwys had been supporting his team in their clash at Molineux on March 7 last year. Lloyd, who was one of six convicted for the attack, was identified after police recognised him.

Prosecutor David Lee told Wolver-

hampton Crown Court how the officers stopped Lloyd and asked for his details during a routine procedure before a previous match.

Mr Lee also told the court how Lloyd had sent text messages to his associates to try to silence them and had hidden his phone. He said: "There were messages which he sent encouraging people not to talk about the attack, because he knew the police would be able to use the evidence against him. He stopped using the phone, and it was found hidden away."

"There are messages on the phone

dating back to January of that year in which he arranges to meet up with other fans for potential violent activity. He sent a message to someone saying how he had been fined £90 for a public disorder offence in another area where Wolves were playing."

Lloyd, of Longfellow Road, admitted causing grievous bodily harm. He was also handed an eight-year football banning order.

Defence barrister James Wilson asked the judge to consider his age and claimed Lloyd has since changed his ways.

Jobs at risk in day care transport shake-up

TWENTY jobs are at risk under Dudley Council plans to privatise transport services to day care centres in a bid to save more than £250,000.

The proposed move – the latest in a swathe of cost-cutting plans by the authority – has been met with concern from some.

Council bosses said they will be reviewing the lease on its fleet of 11 minibuses and plan to use private companies to deliver the transport services to four day care centres in the borough.

The changes, which are due to come into force before the end of the year, would affect 13 permanent staff and seven casual workers.

Users who pay for the transport would not see a change in terms of prices, the Labour-controlled council insists.

But some people are still concerned over the changes causing upset and possible repercussions in the future when demand for the services goes up.

Among the day care centres affected are the Unicorn Centre in Stourbridge, Queens Cross Network in Dudley, The Crystal Gateway in Amblecote and The Brett Young Day centre in Halesowen.

Upset

David Walker, aged 73, from Wall Heath, whose wife Hazel, 69, attends The Crystal Gateway in Amblecote, said staff there were 'upset' after hearing about the cuts.

Mr Walker is his wife's carer and takes Hazel, who has Alzheimer's, to the centre three days a week.

"I am upset more than shocked because the Government have reduced the amount of money to local authorities," he said.

The cost-cutting plan would save the council £263,000. The authority needs to save £20 million over three years and has already implemented cuts in other areas.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, UKIP leader in Dudley, believes that demand for the services is only going to increase.

"A lot more consultation needs to be done with those people who will be affected," he said. "We have to recognise that we are getting more people with dementia and so there will be a bigger demand on these services."

Laura's hair-raising fundraiser



Laura Moore, of Stourbridge, with the brown locks she lost to raise awareness of her medical condition

HAIRDRESSER Laura Moore underwent a drastic restyle to help raise money for a charity close to her heart.

The 30-year-old lost her beloved brown locks, going from a bob to a grade one cut, and has so far raised more than £450.

Laura, from Stourbridge, was recently diagnosed with Arnold Chiari malformation, a condition where the lower part of the brain pushes onto the spinal canal.

She had her head shaved at Mr

Trim in Brierley Hill to raise funds to boost awareness of the disorder. When she was diagnosed Laura discovered she would need an operation to help ease pressure on her brain and this spurred her on to raise money for the Ann Conroy Trust.

"Due to the operation the back of my head will be shaved so I thought why not raise awareness and money by shaving my head completely," said Laura. "The Ann Conroy Trust is a small but very active charity that depends on

sponsors, donors, fundraisers and volunteers to help fund research and provide the support and education for those living with Chiari malformation, syringomyelia and associated conditions.

"The main operation for Chiari Malformation is called decompression surgery. The surgeon removes a small piece of bone from the base of the skull."

To support Laura's fundraising visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lauraacmshave

Police warn to watch out for lottery ticket scam

CONMEN are duping people into handing over jewellery and large sums of cash by promising to sell them a 'winning' lottery ticket worth millions of pounds in the Black Country and elsewhere in the West Midlands.

Several reports have been made to West Midlands Police about two men claiming they have a winning ticket, and offering to sell it to members of the public for cash and goods up front.

Victims in Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Birmingham and Coventry contacting police after they were hoodwinked.

Immigrants

A statement from police said: "We have noticed an increase in reports of people being approached in the street by two men, who are claiming to be illegal immigrants who have a winning lottery ticket."

"They state they can't cash their ticket in for values up to £33 million due to their immigration status, but they can offer their ticket for sale."

"The men ask for cash up front and in some instances even offer to drive people to a cash point to withdraw money."

"The tactics of these people are well rehearsed and are very convincing."

Police warn people that if they are approached by anyone trying to scam them, report it to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call the anti-fraud team on 0300 123 2040.

Rap star Drake has Arena dates

TICKETS range in price from just over £63 to £145 for concerts by top rapper Drake that have been announced for the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham on February 22 and 23.

Tickets go on sale for the two concerts by the Grammy-award winning R&B star from Canada, real name Aubrey Drake Graham, tomorrow (Friday) from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

Meanwhile, 1990s girl band All Saints have got back together for a new album and tour, calling at Birmingham's O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

On Sunday evening South African singer Belinda Davis brings her tribute The Whitney Houston Show to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Vineyard is venue for Santa's grotto

SANTA'S grotto will be available for children at Halfpenny Green Vineyards, Bobbington, from December 3 to 24. The grotto is being run by Sealliwags Soft Play Centre from Brierley Hill. Group bookings can be made on (01384) 77004.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Getting lit up for the festive season

THE annual Christmas lights switch on at the Merry Hill shopping centre will take place in October.

The event, featuring a programme of live entertainment has taken place on November 14 for the last two years, but it will be staged more than a fortnight earlier this time on October 28. Further details of the event have yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that wheelchair tennis ace Jordanne Whiley MBE will do the honour of switching on her home town's Christmas lights on November 19.

Potential buyer for market hall

BRIERLEY Hill's historic market hall looks set to be sold within weeks, it has been revealed.

Discussions with a potential new owner of the landmark High Street building are said to be at an advanced stage.

The building was put up for sale in May by the family firm which have owned it for generations. It is believed it could sell for as much as £1 million.

Market hall manager Wayne Jones said he did not expect the imminent sale to affect the town's indoor market.

Petition to save store is growing

THE petition set up to save Sainsbury's in Merry Hill has now been signed more than 260 concerned shoppers.

Supermarket bosses had earmarked the long-established store for closure on December 30, leaving 193 jobs at risk, after saying that branch is 'underperforming'.

But the petitioners question how the store can be unprofitable, saying 'thousands shop there every week'. It opened in 1989.

Work begins on new HQ for castings firm

MANUFACTURING firm Thomas Dudley has started work on a new multi-million-pound head office.

Based on the Birmingham New Road in Dudley, the company produces castings and high quality bathroom fittings.

The company is still owned by the Dudley family who founded the business in 1920, and it now employs around 350 people. The company has outgrown its current office block, built in the 1970s.

Christmas shopping

TRADERS and businesses in Kinver are hosting a late night shopping event as part of the countdown to Christmas. The village will hold the festive curtain-raiser on November 25 with shops open until 9pm after the Christmas lights switch-on outside the library at 7pm.

Elderly are being urged to go get the flu jab

OVER 65s across the Dudley borough are being urged to get their free flu jabs before winter sets in.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is reminding residents that jabs are not for life and as viruses change each year so does the vaccination.

The drive to get the community winter ready will help save many people from illness.

Dr Steve Mann, GP and clinical executive at Dudley CCG, said: "Flu is a really nasty illness, particularly for those over 65.

"You are more likely to become seriously ill and have problems like pneumonia or make a current illness or condition worse if you don't get the jab."

Dr Mann added that getting a jab was quick and easy, saying: "All it takes is a quick visit to your GP surgery."

The flu season is between September and March and the vaccine is available now.

Residents should look out for a letter, email or text from their GP telling them about the dates and times of their flu clinics.

People are eligible for a free flu vaccination if they are pregnant, 65 years of age or over, or have certain medical conditions, which include people suffering from asthma or other respiratory conditions.

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/staywell

Halloween fun for the family at cone

FAMILIES can have a frightfully good time at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone during a series of events with a spooky Halloween theme.

Events include a zombie family day on Wednesday, October 26, from 10am-3pm. Admission is free but there is a charge of £2.35 for craft activities aimed at ages four and over.

There's also a glass fusion session on Saturday, October 27, where children can make a glass ghost or zombie. Sessions run at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1 and 2pm, costing £4.25 per child and must be booked in advance.

There will be a free drop-in duck trail around the site from October 22 to 30, suitable for children aged three and over.

Call (01384) 812750 or 812381

Artist Geoff to talk about career

ARTIST and cartoonist Geoff Tristram is to talk about his career at Dudley Library. Mr Tristram, of Wollaston, talks about 40 years Watching Paint Dry on October 25 at 2.30pm. Tickets £3 on (01384) 815560.

Former Imam guilty of indecent assaults

A RELIGIOUS leader who carried out sex attacks on two young girls at his mosque faces jail.

Hafiz Rahman, who was the Imam at Queens Cross mosque in Cradley Heath, has been found guilty of five out of seven charges of indecent assault at Wolverhampton Crown Court. He was cleared of the other two.

The 58-year-old, of Ballard Road, Netherton, sexually assaulted the girls at the mosque in a string of attacks between March 1986 and August 1987.

The victims, who were aged under 10 at the time, had gone to the mosque for religious studies.

They had described to the jury how they were touched sexually by Rahman.

One woman broke down as she explained how she

found it hard to understand what was happening. She was only six-years-old when the attack happened.

She told police: "I felt morally obliged to do the right thing."

The jury reached unanimous verdicts at the end of the five-day trial on five of the charges.

Custodial

Judge Nicholas Cartwright said Rahman should expect an immediate custodial sentence due to the nature of the charges, though the defendant was not in court to hear the verdicts after Mr Tariq Shakoor, defending, informed the judge that Rahman was ill.

Judge Cartwright added sentencing should take

place on a date to be arranged once Rahman had made a full recovery.

Detective Constable Liz Skyte from West Midland Police's Public Protection Unit, said: "The abuse started with inappropriate touching but escalated to more serious assaults.

"The first complainant told us how the abuse happened almost daily but she never told anyone as due to his high standing in the community, she thought she would not be believed."

He ruled the father of seven and grandfather of 10 should also sign the Sex Offenders Register as soon as possible.

Rahman, who had a Bengali interpreter, did not give evidence himself during the trial.

Language test delaying arrival of Filipino nurses

THERE are delays in nurses from the Philippines starting work at Dudley Group NHS Trust because they haven't passed English language tests.

More than 130 recruits from the Far East had been expected to start work next month, but at a meeting of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust's board it was revealed only nine have passed their IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test, and they aren't likely to start at the trust until March.

During the meeting chief nurse Dawn Wardell said: "We've had nine Filipino nurses pass the IELTS and they are currently going through the visa process, but there are still 80 plus waiting.

"We've provided them with additional support, with a training programme out in the Philippines to help them with the English language test. We are pushing to get these nurses here for March - there is an additional cost for April 1."

Ms Wardell also said that there were approximately 100 vacancies currently at the trust, although they had not had the latest figures in terms of leavers and starters.

Recruitment

Asked after the meeting on Thursday for further details on the delay, Ms Wardell said: "Recruiting from overseas is a lengthy process and it is frustrating that it is taking longer than anticipated to start our new recruits in post.

"After their initial interview, overseas candidates must pass a rigorous IELTS English language test followed by the CBT (cognitive behavioural therapy) computer competence test via the NMC (Nursing & Midwifery Council). Once passed, they then begin their visa application.

"After they arrive in the UK, candidates must then pass a practical competence test via the NMC.

"The nine candidates from the Philippines are now taking their computer literacy tests."

Among those to express concern on the board was Andrew McMenemy, director of Human Resources at the trust.

"We are putting a significant amount of energy going into this and its still not bearing fruit," he said during the meeting. "We might be better putting our energy into something more localised."

MP has a hoot as new patron



MP Gavin Williamson with Graham Morley, principal of South Staffordshire College, and Barny the owl

SOUTH Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has been named as the patron of the World Owl Trust.

As Kinver's Conservative MP Mr Williamson was formally awarded the new role, he also received a £3,000 donation from South Staffordshire College towards the trust's new £1 million centre at Himley Hall.

The money will help pay for two out of 60 aviaries to be built at the venue. It is expected to open next summer.

Alan Peace, chairman of the board of trustees, said: "Gavin has been very good to us. He has been physically helping us on site at Himley to clear the jungle in readiness for the building work."

"The £3,000 donation from the college will be a tremendous benefit to the trust which at the moment has very limited income."

The World Owl Trust was previously based at Muncaster Castle in Cumbria, but was told it had to

leave. Currently 84 birds are kept at the college's Rodbaston Campus in Penkridge with around 100 at other sites. Once the new centre is open at Himley it will be home to all of the trust's owl species.

Mr Peace added: "It is a major project because a lot of the work of the trust is around education within communities and this new centre will be accessible to 1,500 schools"

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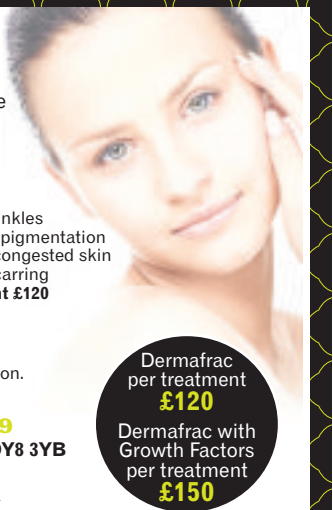


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TWO institutions. Both depend on public donations. Both help people let down by government agencies. So why is Children in Need a national treasure of which we are proud, but food banks are a national disgrace of which we are ashamed?

TV switches from programmes to adverts with no warning. One moment we were wining in horror at the young sheep with a huge, shiny, prolapsed rectum in The Yorkshire Vet (C5), the next we were invited to try a gourmet break in a Yorkshire hotel, featuring tender, glistening burgers. I bet they didn't get many inquiries.

ALL the political parties are pledged to build more homes. So where will they go? I drove across to Cambridge this week and then back via Bedford. It was like one vast new housing estate. I lost count of the number of part-built streets, gobbling up meadows which have been farmed for a thousand years. The irony is that having destroyed all vestiges of Saxon farming, developers choose names such as Saxon Way.

WHOPPER of the week as the nation's emails crashed yet again: "Yahoo! Will be right back. Our engineers are working quickly to resolve the issue." Depends how you define "quickly," doesn't it?

I BET there is not a woman in the land who doesn't not understand why Diane James stood down as the leader of Ukip only 18 days after being elected. It is an impossible position. If you fail, you will be denounced and vilified. If you succeed, you'll have to have another kiss from Nigel Farage.



I LOVE the latest suggestion from Whitehall that restaurants serving huge pudding portions should be "named and shamed" in the fight against obesity. But if eateries decided to reduce pudding portions for the common good, what would happen next? We have seen it with punters who avoid high prices for pub and club booze by "preloading" beforehand with a bottle or two of vodka. I can imagine serious nosers stuffing themselves with pudding before even arriving at the restaurant. Behold, a new social evil, pre-loading on spotted dick.

MANGLED metaphors in Birmingham. If you believe everything you heard from Conservative leaders, the way ahead is going to be a stormy sea and a rough ride with many bumps in the road and a bit of a rollercoaster. After the Tory Conference should we be travelling by boat, car or fairground ride? I think I'll be packing my trusty pogo-stick, just in case the grapes of wrath come home to roost.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Plans to give residents a bigger say

RESIDENTS will get more of a say on future developments in their area when a new consultation scheme on planning is launched.

Dudley Council wants people on the ground to speak up about planning projects across the borough.

The scheme will mean more opportunities to comment on applications, greater influence on developments and the ability to help shape plans.

Residents are being urged to comment on the council's draft Statement of Community Involvement. The document sets out the council's commitment to give people a greater say.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "This is about giving people a greater say about where they live and work.

Through the recommendations of the Statement of Community Involvement, we are hoping to give people the opportunity to have more say than ever before on how their neighbourhoods are developed, and people should take this opportunity to get involved."

The draft document sets out how the council intends to get people more involved in the planning process. This includes social media and helping people draw up plans for their own area.

The council is also considering ways of working more closely with community groups, especially young people.

The consultation is now open and runs until November 28. To get involved visit www.dudley.gov.uk website

Life-saving officers to receive top honour

By David Cosgrove

TWO Black Country police officers who fought a life and death battle to bring a suicidal man back from the brink of death after finding him hanging at his home have been awarded top life-saving honours.

Pcs Andrew Farmer and Daniel Hackett are to receive Royal Humane Society resuscitation certificates for reviving the man after they found him hanging from the loft hatch at his Quarry Bank home and cut him down.

In addition to the awards they are to receive they have also won the personal praise of Royal Humane Society secretary, Dick Wilkinson.

As he announced the awards at the Society's London headquarters, Mr Wilkinson said: "Time was of the absolute essence in this situation. The police had received a call that the man had threatened to hang himself. Pcs Farmer and Hackett went to his home in Quarry Bank and found him hanging from a loft hatch in a back bedroom.

Recovery

"He appeared to be dead but Pc Farmer cut him down while Pc Hackett took his weight. He had no vital signs but Pc Farmer began administering chest compressions while Pc Hackett gave him the kiss-of-life. Thankfully he began to breathe again and has since gone on to make a full recovery.

"But if the two officers had not arrived when they did, this incident could have had a very different and tragic outcome. They richly deserve the awards."

No date has yet been fixed for presentation of the awards which have been made following a recommendation from West Midlands Police, which stated: "Both officers acted quickly and effectively. Their intervention and expertise undoubtedly prevented the man's death."

Invitation to Simon and his BGT pals



Simon Cowell look-alike Andy Monk, of Dudley, ready for Britain's Got Talent auditions at Brierley Hill Civic Hall

BRITAIN'S Got Talent fans are being urged to help bring Simon Cowell and his fellow judges to Brierley Hill Civic Hall when auditions are staged for the TV show.

Bosses at the civic hall want people to use the Twitter hashtag #getsimontobrierleyhill when talking about the auditions online.

James Challis, the venue's general manager, said: "So far we've had no confirmation that any of the main stars are coming but we're trying to get them here. We would love that. The more that people create interest then the more chances there is. Use #getsimontobrierleyhill on Twitter or tweet him direct asking for him to attend."

In the event Mr Cowell doesn't show up Civic bosses

have also hired a lookalike to promote the event. There has been a massive reaction to the news the town will be hosting auditions, with an initial post about the event being viewed more than 130,000 times on social media.

Tickets for the auditions, on October 25, sold out within 24 hours, and another talent show has been organised to give everyone the chance to perform.

Mr Challis said: "I think we were expecting a lot of interest but didn't expect it to get quite as big as it did. So we've decided to run Brierley Hill's Got Talent the following day. Although they won't have the chance to progress onto Britain's Got Talent we are promoting it with a £500 prize." Anyone wanting to enter should email boxoffice@bhillecivic.co.uk

Engineering firm gears up to fulfil more orders

AN ENGINEERING firm in Dudley has invested in new machinery to increase its production capacity with the support of a £500,000 funding package from Lloyds Bank.

Established in 1919, Moseley Brothers specialises in the design and manufacturing of pressed metal parts and tooling for the automotive, domestic appliance and aerospace markets.

Customers include Jaguar Land Rover and JCB. Following an increase in demand for its products as a result of its growing target markets, the business approached long-term banking provider Lloyds Bank.

The bank's commercial finance team provided an asset finance facility which allowed the business to buy two new power press machines to manufacture components and prove tooling.

As a result, the firm's production capacity has increased by 20 per cent, and its annual turnover is now expected to increase from £3 million to £5 million in the next two years.

The business' most recent investment follows on from its move to a 34,000 sq ft site on Narrowboat Way in September 2015, which was also funded by Lloyds Bank.

The relocation gave it the space for additional machinery which meant Moseley could meet rising demand from both existing and new clients.

In line with its expansion, the business has employed twelve new members of staff, bringing its total headcount to 40 people.

Teenage markets across borough

AN ICONIC Black Country building will next month host a teenage market, the first of several in Dudley borough.

Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone is preparing for the market on Saturday and Sunday, November 26 and 27.

It will be the second time the market has been hosted by the attraction, with stalls from 13 to 23-year-olds to include jewellery, cakes, photography, crafts and festive gifts.

The markets will also take place at Netherton Arts Centre on Saturday, November 12, and at The Moor Centre in Brierley Hill on Saturday, December 3.

The events will also feature performances from talented young people.

To book a stall or a performing slot, visit www.theteenagemarket.co.uk

Man, 22, to appear in court after robbery

A 22-year-old man has been charged in connection with the alleged robbery of the One Stop shop in Swan Lake. Wordsley, Andrew Faux, of Campbell Street, Brockmoor, is due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on October 28.



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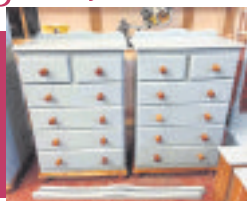


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NEWS IN BRIEF

Zoo folks focus on Hocus Pocus

Brave youngsters are invited to Dudley Zoological Gardens for their Hocus Pocus evenings.

They can dress up in their spookiest costumes to watch Dippy's Halloween Show and participate in ghoulish games. There will also be some close encounters with a variety of creepy critters and a visit to the haunted cot-tag.

The Hocus Pocus evenings are taking place on October 27 and 28. Tickets are £9 with children under three free. Visit dudleyzoo.org.uk or call (01384) 215313.

Change of date for pub festival

A LYE pub has switched the dates for its street food and beer festival.

The event at The Shovel Inn, Pedmore Road, was due to have been held last weekend but will now take place this weekend, from last night (Thursday) to Saturday.

There will be a dozen street food stalls and a choice of 12 cask and four keg ales offered inside.

Special gins and fruit wines will also be on sale at the free admission festival.

The food will be available until 10pm each day.

Sundial installed at revamped park

A SUNDIAL was this week being unveiled as part of a £3.1m project to improve a park.

It is being placed at Mary Stevens Park, in Stourbridge.

The sundial was originally in the town centre but it became damaged in the 1970s. It has since been found and repaired and was being unveiled on Monday. The project has included work to the gates, war memorial, bandstand and cafe with £2.6m from Heritage Lottery Fund.

Halloween trails for family half term fun

CHILDREN can enjoy Halloween trails in Netherton and Brierley Hill.

Trails can be picked up from Netherton and Brierley Hill libraries during the half-term holiday that will lead families around the two town centres with clues to solve for entry in a prize draw for a family ticket to Himley Hall bonfire and fireworks.

Netherton Library will host Halloween tales and crafts at 11am on October 28, and Brierley Hill Library at 1pm the following day.

Fewer phone offences

THE numbers of drivers caught on their mobile phones behind the wheel in the West Midlands has dropped by more than half in five years, according to new figures.

West Midlands Police handed out fines to 6,694 drivers in 2011/12. This reduced to 2,818 last year.

TV antiques experts to help hospice fundraiser

STARS of the BBC TV's Antique Roadshow, Fake Britain and Flog It! TV programmes are hosting an antique valuation day in support of the Mary Stevens Hospice.

Will Farmer (Antiques Roadshow and Fake Britain) and Nick Davies (Flog It!), will be joined by their colleagues from Fieldings Auctioneers at Hogarths Stone Manor tomorrow (Friday).

They will be valuing objects and treasured items in exchange for a suggested donation of £1 to the Hagley Road hospice.

The event will run from 10am to 2pm at the Kidderminster venue with food and refreshments available throughout the day.

Dan Malin, of the Mary Stevens Hospice said: "It's a fantastic event for us to be associated with, and something a bit different for our supporters to get involved in."

"We all love the idea that our bits and bobs up in the loft might turn out to be worth a small fortune, so to have the opportunity to find out from such prestigious experts, while supporting local families, has got us and our community very excited."

"We're incredibly grateful both to Fieldings for arranging such a fantastic event and to Stone Manor for providing such a beautiful backdrop."

For more information or to browse the catalogue, visit www.fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk and to find out more about the care provided by Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk website.

Fire star veteran to light up stage

VETERAN 1960s rocker Arthur Brown brings Fire to the Black Country next week.

The Crazy World of Arthur Brown, best known for 1968 chart-topper Fire, brings his fire helmet theatrics to the Robin 2, Bilston, next Thursday (October 20). Whitby-born Brown recently released a new album Zim Zam Zim and won Classic Rock Magazine Showman of The Year award. Tickets are £16 on the door. The 'God of Hell Fire' will be on stage from 9.30pm.

Meanwhile, San Francisco band The Tubes, who had a hit in the 1970s with White Punks On Dope, will bring their Mondo Pulp Tour to the Robin 2 on Tuesday. Tickets are £22.50 advance and £25 on the door. Call 01902 401211 or see www.therobin.co.uk

National award for pharmacist

A COMMUNITY pharmacist in Dudley, Olutayo Arikawe, has been chosen as the national winner of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's I Love My Pharmacist Award. She works at The Priory Community Pharmacy.

Metro extension will boost borough



Artist's view of Metro at Dudley Port

"IMPROVING transport across Dudley and the Black Country is absolutely essential, both for residents and also to attract businesses into the area."

The words of Dudley South MP Mike Wood, as the long-awaited Wednesday to Brierley Hill Midland Metro extension looks set to go ahead.

After nearly two decades in the making, the extension at last looks to be coming to fruition with work expected to start next year.

The scheme was first mooted back in 2003. A design statement about

the proposed extension was created by Centro – forerunner to the West Midlands Combined Authority as the region's transport authority.

It said: "The scheme will provide a step-change improvement in the quality of public transport services offered in the transport corridor between Wednesday, Dudley and Brierley Hill providing faster journey times and offering new journey opportunities."

"The scheme will provide the opportunity for easily accessing employment, education and leisure activities through improved public transport

facilities linking Dudley town centre and Brierley Hill town centre with Birmingham and Wolverhampton.

Conservative MP Mr Wood was delighted at the progress. He said: "This Metro extension would make it much easier for people to get across our region and will link in with the HS2 plan."

"For the past 50 years Dudley, Brierley Hill and Kingswinford haven't had a railway station and haven't been on the rail network – even though this borough has one of the largest shopping centres in Europe."

FOOD banks across the Black Country are preparing for a busy winter – even though many supermarket prices have come down.

The Black Country Food Bank, which operates at 19 sites across the region, is anticipating an increase in visitors.

The festive period is its busiest time, according to partnership worker Emma Crook.

The Black Country Food Bank is expecting about 18,000 asking for help at the end of this year, an increase on last year when 16,000 called for assistance. It was 20,000 the year before that.

Ms Crook said the changes in demand from their user were down to a host of different factors, including the economy and a loss in links with other agencies.

"As the cold sets in, for some people it is the choice between heating or eating," she said.

"And then at Christmas some people overstretch themselves, so when they are hit by a surprise, it can leave them without any money."

"After a quiet summer, we are expecting a busier winter time and an increase in visitors from last year."

Crisis

The food bank organisation has about 100 volunteers. It helps vulnerable individuals and families in crisis through the provision of three days' emergency food supplies.

Users get vouchers to pick up the supplies, which include fruit and vegetables, to provide breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The vouchers are given by agencies helping people in emergencies. People can use the vouchers three times in a row.

The food is donated by church groups, businesses and the supermarkets.

The Black Country Food Bank is run from premises in Brierley Hill.

Last month the group announced a shortage, asking for more cereal, tinned fruit and toiletries.

Meanwhile, according to the mySupermarket Groceries Tracker, many grocery items are cheaper compared to last year at supermarkets.

Compared with September last year, broccoli is now 29 per cent cheaper, bananas cost 11 per cent less, frozen fish fingers are down eight per cent and onions are down 20 per cent. MySupermarket chief executive Gilad Simhony said: "We are also seeing both consumer confidence and prices stabilising, which is a positive sign."



Absolutely chipper – John (left) and Zach Ioannou (right) with Sav Martignetti at Oldswinford Fish and Chips, on Hagley Road, Stourbridge

Chippy cooks up regional success

A BLACK Country fish and chip shop has seen off the competition from across the region to be named the best in the Midlands.

Judges were wowed by the quality of the fish and chips on offer at Oldswinford Fish and Chips, on Hagley Road.

It was crowned as the top chippy in the Midlands category of the Independent Takeaway Fish and Chip Shop of the Year, organised by Seafish.

It will now go up against other regional winners from across the country in a bid to win the national title, judged in January.

Menu

The chippy was also judged in a range of areas including menu, customer experience and staff training.

Co-owner Zach Ioannou said: "Our shop has been in our family for over 39 years, but we re-branded to Oldswinford Fish and Chips in 2012 when my brother John and I took over. We've established a loyal customer base. This year's success comes as long-awaited recognition."

The chippy was first opened by their father Andreas in 1977.

Advertisement

Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership



Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Stourbridge & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes

good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Colourful language for the ‘too close’ car

HUMBLE pie time. A few weeks ago I said the reason modern technology was so boring was down to the fact that anything that served any useful purpose had already been invented, and that supposedly new developments were mostly either gimmicks or variations on an old theme.

But then along come those crazy South Koreans to prove me wrong, with the invention we have all been waiting for.

Kiss On The Road is a set of paint nodules which have been fitted to a little Hyundai hatchback, which sprays messages onto the road behind.

Its creators suggest that eventually it could be used to spray road safety messages, such as alerting drivers behind to a crash ahead, but to begin with it is most likely to be used by the advertising industry.

They're missing a trick. If I bought one, it wouldn't be to sell anything, or to tell the people behind me to wear a seatbelt or inform them that tiredness kills. But it would be deployed every time somebody in a mid-range German saloon car feels the need to drive within six inches of my back bumper on the motorway flashing their headlights.

I think "back off" painted in large letters on the bonnet would communicate the message beautifully...

IMAGINE you are elderly or vulnerable, or maybe a mother out with two young children. How would you feel if some juvenile delinquent in a creepy clown's mask jumped out brandishing a plastic knife?

This latest craze has already led to a 13-year-old boy being arrested in West Bromwich, and I don't suppose he will be the last.

What is it with these people? Can't they just stick to skulking in darkened bedrooms playing zombies on their computers, or whatever it is they do?

Sooner or later one of them will come a cropper and pick on the wrong person, and my gut reaction is it would serve them right.

However, I bet they will be the first to go squealing to the law if anyone lays a finger on them. They will probably say it's a hate crime.

AM I the only one who is sick of hearing embittered EU supporters complaining that they don't know what Brexit looks like?

Surely that is the point. It is about the freedom to shape our nation, without interference from the former president of Luxembourg.

If the political establishment don't know what Brexit looks like, perhaps they should do what they are paid for and come up with some ideas. Then we will tell them whether we like it or not.



The Duchess of Cambridge hands a medal to Mr Yarrington



War veterans and amputees gathered at Hednesford Town



Prince Harry has a chat with Sapper Clive Smith

Night to celebrate heroes of conflict

A sum of £2,000 was raised as veterans relived some of their most traumatic experiences. JESSICA LABHART reports

IT was night of music, smiles and celebration, even though some of those in the crowd had gone through some of the most traumatic experiences of war.

Veterans from across the West Midlands came together to share their life-changing experiences of the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of a charity fundraiser for Help for Heroes. The night raised more than £2,000.

It revealed some of the harrowing experiences suffered by the veterans who are still on the road to recovery.

Scott Yarrington, aged 31, of Bloxwich was in the army in 2005, with the Irish Guards. He served in Iraq in 2007 and Afghanistan in 2010. Whilst in Afghanistan on December 29, 2010, he was in charge of searching for improvised explosive devices along a bridge area when he stepped on it, losing both his legs.

Transferred

Mr Yarrington said: "I just started screaming because the pain was hitting me. I woke up in the QE hospital in Birmingham."

He spent two months in the QE, before being transferred to Headley Court – the specialist defence medical rehabilitation centre near Surrey. At the start of May 2011 he met his now fiancée Rachel Andrews, aged 28, and the pair later had son Alfie, aged three, following IVF treatment.

He is now helping young cadets learn the ropes as part of the Mercian Regiment.

His inspirational story was one of many on the night.

Clive Smith, aged 31, who lives in Walsall, also stepped on an explosive device when he was in Afghanistan on October 13, 2010. He lost both legs. Despite being conscious



Guardsman Scott Yarrington, of Bloxwich



Clive Smith from Walsall



David Watson, of Birmingham

throughout the ordeal, Sapper Smith's main concern was the wellbeing of his comrades, who rushed to his aid as he lay bleeding in the battlefield. Within 36 hours he was flown to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

Mr Smith, a Wolves fan originally from Cannock, was later transferred to Headley Court and also spent time at the Battle Back Centre in Lilleshall. The centre, funded by the Royal British Legion, helps sick and wounded service personnel recover.

Since having artificial legs, he has competed in the men's hand bike time trial, IHB2 class, at the Invictus Games at the Olympic Park in London. At Molineux, he has presented the match ball and been named Championship fan of the month.

In 2012 he was chosen as the face of the Royal British Legion's National Poppy Appeal. Speaking of what it meant to be at the char-

ity fundraiser, Mr Smith said: "I think it's important for us to come together like this to raise the profile of Help for Heroes and also to show people that there is life after serious injury."

Dave Watson, of Birmingham, aged 30, was in Afghanistan in 2010 when he was on patrol, tasked to find an improvised explosive device. He was the 50th man in a group of 53, and turned to help a fellow soldier who had fallen down. As he twisted to turn, he took a wrong step on to the explosive device. He lost both legs and his right forearm.

Mr Watson has since undergone extensive rehabilitation and has not let his injuries hold him back. After a £120,000 operation in Australia, funded by his compensation from the army, to give him high-quality prosthetic legs, he has completed 15 skydives, five abseils, and goes skiing and waterskiing. He is also a re-

spected discus, shot put and javelin thrower. He is in training for both the Invictus Games and the Paralympic Games in 2020.

Event organiser Andy Sawyer said: "It was absolutely unbelievable, we raised £2,180.

"Half will go to Team Ditcher Big Battlefield Bike Ride 2017 in aid of Help the Heroes. We will and donating the other half to Veterans' Lifeline.

"It's not often that veterans have a chance to meet up and talk about their experiences, but also raise money for a good cause and ultimately, have a good time, so I'm really pleased with how everything has gone."

Veterans' Lifeline has been set up by former soldier Nick Perry, 41, of Liverpool who joined the army at 16 and served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He set up the charity to help veterans struggling with post-traumatic-stress and other issues to overcome their difficulties."

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It's time to honour another Dudley hero

REGARDING The Duncan Edwards Memorial Plaque. As a cousin of Duncan Edwards I share the pride in his achievements voiced by Dudley MP Ian Austin.

However, I must take issue with the claims of Cllr Tyler - Duncan was not the first local footballer to make it 'to the big time', Ray Westwood (Bolton Wanderers) was capped six times for England between 1934/6.

There is a family connection between

them, and Ray served in The Eighth Army during World War II, as did another former member of the Brierley Hill Schools team that spawned a number of good players, Arthur Brearley.

He and Ray met up on the advance to Rome and liberated several bottles of Chianti to reminisce.

I believe that Cllr Tyler also has ambition towards honouring another Dudley legend, Billy Dainty. My parents and his parents and his aunt and uncle were close friends. His mother made my wife's wedding bouquet at their shop in Wolverhampton Street.

I last saw Billy in his dressing room at the Pier Theatre, Great Yarmouth, in a few hours of respite during parachute/battle training at Thetford prior to the Suez crisis.

If a plaque to Billy is organised I trust they will not forget his sister Betty who spent her show business career with the Cyril Fletcher Show.

They both grew up in a house close to the junction of Burton Road and The Broadway.

TERRY BREARLEY
Kingswinford

A Grand night out with Justin

WE went to the fabulously updated Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, what a wonderful refurbishment on this wonderful Victoria theatre - well worth a visit!

We went to see the also fabulous Justin Hayward. He played for about two hours, some new songs from his new album All The Way and some of his mighty Moody Blues classics. He is a very emotional songwriter and singer.

He's a very accomplished guitarist and was backed by Mike Dawes, superb acoustic guitarist in his own right, also on stage with a lady keyboard player (sorry don't know her name) who was also excellent.

It's amazing that he can play for two hours performing mostly his own songs and material. He could have spent eight hours more as his back list is massive.

A great night all told and well worth seeing. Justin Hayward is a class act!

MICHAEL HANKIN
Halesowen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Amiable Sir Terry's humour is missed

DURING my years driving as a sales representative, I remember very fondly listening to Sir Terry Wogan, just gabbling on about all sorts of 'rubbish'.

In addition to all of the housebound listeners, he kept us 'motorists' entertained.

Fondly I recall his references to the Nuneaton 'pyramids', the Northampton 'lighthouse' and the Milton Keynes 'concrete cows'.

Regarding these items, some friends and my wife and I were driving south on the M1 on our way to France for a holiday. We were keeping in touch via 'CB Radio' and I was regaling Terry's remarks about the above items. A lorry driver butted in and said 'their ain't any lighthouses in Northampton or pyramids in Nuneaton'.

I also wrote to Sir Terry about 'builders cooking their breakfasts on a shovel over their fires'. And about the Government 'laying off the millions of people who were employed to wash the glass cats eyes'. He made a great play of these items.

Terry, we miss your voice. God bless.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Testaments fit for our Duncan

MY congratulations go out to all the people involved in acknowledging one the true legends of English football.

On October 1 the blue plaque was unveiled in Dudley by another of our footballing legends Sir Bobby Charlton. It was a testament to his love of a team-mate that he made the journey to pay his own tribute to our own Duncan Edwards.

I was honoured to interview Rose Cook on the Omma n' Chain show I host for Black Country Radio and feel the obvious passion she has held for the story of the quite unique sportsman.

We hear so much about what is wrong within sport but here we can really feel there was a human being that rose above it all.

His statue and now the plaque are fitting testaments to a hero that will stay in our hearts for generations to come.

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£240k funding to encourage students into business careers

THE Black Country is getting a £240,000 boost to help young people develop their future careers.

It will aim to help link 13 and 14-year-old schoolchildren, in school year nine, and their teachers with employers, encouraging more youngsters to choose careers in key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, building and transport technology and business services.

The idea is that if youngsters get to meet with people in various businesses it can inspire them in their choice of a future career.

Store next to pub decision due Monday

A CO-OP store looks set to be built on a pub car park in Wollescote after the scheme was recommended for approval by planning officers.

The shop would be built next to the Hare and Hounds on Wynall Lane. It is the latest pub site owned by New River Retail to be made subject to plans for a Co-op store. However, it is hoped the pub will not be affected by the arrival of the shop.

But Wollescote councillor Richard Body said he was concerned the store would bring more traffic.

"It is a very dangerous road," he said. "There is a lot of traffic and there has been a lot of accidents. What will the pub do if there is a big even? Where will people park? On the road? It will be a nightmare."

A decision will be made on Monday. Company bosses said there would also be an investment in revamping the pub with 30 new parking spaces and 20 jobs.

The Black Country's Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has been awarded the funding by the Careers & Enterprise Company to deliver the scheme, called Passport to Employment. Launched by the Government but led by employers, the Careers & Enterprise Company was set up last year to improve careers provision in schools and colleges across England.

Generation

George Andrews, chairman of the Black Country LEP employment and skills board, said: "This investment will enable the Black Country to build on existing partnerships.

"Through the Passport to Employment not only do we aim to inspire the next generation of engineer or manufacturer but also to create a framework of effective continuing professional development for teachers across sectors.

"The programme will create a blueprint for assignments for use in the classrooms, not just across the Black Country but potentially on a national scale."

The LEP will be working a series of organisations to deliver the project across the Black Country, including Business in the Community, Wolverhampton Education Business Partnership (EBP), Dudley EBP, Sips Education (Sandwell's EBP) and Education Business Partnership Walsall.

Aerospace investment at company



Sales director Ian Perks (left), Wade Overton and production director Dave Bryant

DUDLEY'S Alloy Heat Treatment (AHT) has revealed a £500,000 investment that will help produce parts for passenger jets.

The company's new Oven 30 allows it to solution treat larger products and is the largest oven the company has owned.

It has been specifically built to handle aerospace parts at the firm's Grazebrook Industrial Estate factory, where it employs 53 people.

The firm is the UK's only specialist in heat treating aluminium alloys. AHT managing director, Adrian Church said: "We've built and installed the biggest piece of heat treatment equipment we have ever had, in order to do work for a customer who are making parts for the new Bombardier C Series plane."

Quicker

Production director Dave Bryant added: "Oven 30 will allow us to quote for more work and we will be able to complete existing work quicker as we can put more product in, so this will improve our efficiency. We can reduce the energy we are using by using one oven rather than three."

AHT enjoy long term relationships with aerospace industry suppliers, applying their heat treatment expertise to semi-finished parts to increase strength, endurance and life span.

The company is also accredited to work in aerospace, defence and related industries and have preferred supplier status to major companies including Rolls Royce, BAe and Airbus.

Local councils could buy the M6 Toll road

TRANSPORT Secretary Chris Grayling has paved the way for the M6 Toll to be nationalised by admitting he was not 'philosophically opposed' to the idea.

He said that if the West Midlands Combined Authority – made up of all four Black Country councils plus Birmingham, Coventry, and Solihull – wanted to buy the motorway, it could. But he added that there may be other infrastructure priorities.

It comes after South Staffordshire Conservative MP Gavin Williamson repeated calls for the road to be taken into public ownership in order to ease congestion on the West Midlands motorway network.

Mr Grayling told the Express & Star: "I have no philosophical objection to the combined authority to purchase the road. We have to bear in mind at a time when taxpayers' money is in short supply and we want to invest in infrastructure, are we better off spending the money on taking over something that is already there or investing in a new project?"

"The M6 Toll is an asset to the region. I understand why people want to buy it but there are other needs for infrastructure in the West Midlands, too."

The M6 Toll has been put up for sale by its owners with a reported price tag in excess of £1bn.

The West Midlands Combined Authority has already mooted the idea of taking over the road.

Mr Williamson, prior to his appointment as Chief Whip, said he had conversations with ministers to see if the road could be taken into public hands.

The 27-mile M6 Toll, from Cannock to Coleshill, is Britain's first pay-to-drive motorway.

A debt-restructuring process led to a consortium of 27 banks effectively taking ownership of the loss-making road from Midlands Expressway Ltd. It is now selling its equity stake.

Roadworks on the M6 have helped boost takings on the M6 Toll by more than £10 million.



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National Trust launching Kinver Edge path appeal

A PATHWAY linking historic landmarks at Kinver Edge will be created to mark 100 years since the site was donated to the National Trust.

The sandstone ridge and heath near Stourbridge is popular with visitors largely for its Holy Austin rock houses which were inhabited until the 1960s and can be visited.

The Edge also has an Iron Age Hill Fort, woodland walks, exposed red sandstone and orchards.

The proposed Centenary Pathway will join all these features with a three and a half mile accessible trail circling the site, which will be created largely by improving existing routes.

Campaign

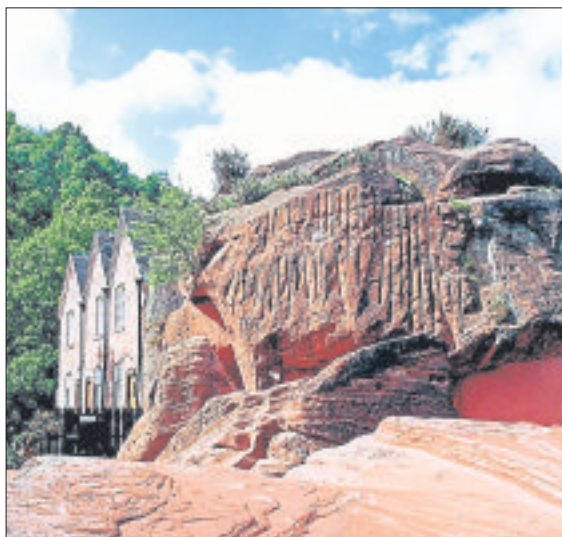
Bosses at the National Trust have launched a fundraising campaign in a bid to cover the £175,000 costs.

Helen Selkirk, visitor experience officer, said: "The idea is to improve access for all users. The surface of the pathway will be multi-use friendly in that it will be suitable for wheel, hooves or feet."

"Most of the proposed pathway follows existing trails and there will be some engineering to reduce the gradient by following the contours of the hills. Other parts of the centenary pathway will be created new. In all it will be a substantial loop."

Kinver Edge was gifted to the National Trust in 1917 by the Lee family who wanted the site to be enjoyed as a place of leisure and recreation by people from the Black Country and beyond.

Bosses see the scheme as continuing the tradition of conservation and access.



The Holy Austin Rock houses protected by the National Trust at Kinver Edge

The funding campaign has already attracted nearly £30,000 via a Just-Giving page and other donations have been made in person by visitors to the site.

This will pay for gates and additional resting spots at steeper points on the trail, on which work will start this winter. The rest of the pathway will be created as and when funding becomes available.

It is also proposed to create im-

proved signage so that visitors are aware of the degree of difficulty on different parts of the pathway.

Further projects and events are in the pipeline as part of the site's centenary celebrations with details being made available later in the autumn.

As well as protecting and improving the heathland, the National Trust has also been carrying out an ambitious restoration project on the former site of a conifer plantation.

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Hairy Bikers will be in the Supertheatre

COMPETITION

Tuck in ready for the festive food season

THE flagship BBC Good Food Show returns to the Birmingham's NEC next month to set visitors up for the perfect festive, foodie season.

And you could be there. The organisers have teamed up with the Chronicle series to offer 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

Stock up on everything you need at the BBC Good Food Show, November 24-27. Enjoy live entertainment, great shopping, be inspired by top chefs and taste exciting new flavours.

Join a stellar line up of chefs and experts including Paul Hollywood, Mary Berry, Raymond Blanc and Michel Roux Jr, the Hairy Bikers and NEW this year, Nadiya Hussain as they bring their favourite seasonal dishes to life in the Supertheatre.

Plus pick up top tips for the Christ-

mas season from James Martin and other guests on the Winter Kitchen.

Hear more from your culinary heroes in live interviews on the BBC Good Food Stage hosted by the BBC Good Food cookery team, and get your cook books signed by the authors themselves.

Stock up on all the treats and tips you'll need to see you through the winter in the various shopping areas around the Show, including The Producers' Village, a huge speciality food market, The Bakes & Cakes Village and the Christmas Shopping Market.

Be inspired with ideas for festive entertaining, tempting tastes and great shopping from hundreds of regional and seasonal producers, plus plenty of festive spirit – the tastiest way to get warmed up for the season.



Festive tips from James Martin



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What is the Producers' Village?
Send answers on postcard with name, address and phone number to Good Food Show competition, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV11. Closing date: Thursday, October 20.

Tickets are general admission only, excluding Saturday and excluding Supertheatre. Supertheatre tickets can be bought on the day for an additional £3, subject to availability. Not all celebrities appear on all days, see the website for details.

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Leaders listen to public concerns

DUDLEY residents had their say at an event to influence community safety priorities across the borough.

The 'Dudley: have your say' event was held on September 28 and organised by Safe & Sound, Dudley's community safety partnership. It gave people the opportunity to highlight priorities for the coming year.

Those attending took part in workshops and also had chance to ask questions directly to a panel of decision makers from organisations including the council, police, fire service and clinical commissioning group. Partners are now committed to using the feedback and working towards addressing concerns.

Councillor Judy Foster, deputy leader of Dudley Council, said: "This event gave residents the opportunity to raise their concerns and talk about how communities can work with the partnership to make Dudley a safer borough. I was particularly pleased to see the number of young people."

Coffee morning raises £380 for Macmillan



Sainsbury's staff Julie Bate and Colleen Shakespeare

STAFF at Sainsbury's Amblecote held a Macmillan coffee morning in store raising hundreds of pounds for charity.

The event took place on September 30 and raised £380 for Macmillan, which was aided by customer and staff donations.

Leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Pete Lowe, joined residents at the event to make his contribution.

Café worker Colleen Shakespeare, who supports the event in her own time each year said: "We were overwhelmed by the donations from our customers and very humbled to hear how Macmillan assists their families, who have been affected by cancer."

It was held as part of the annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning, Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer.

The charity ask people all over the UK to host their own coffee mornings and donations on the day are made to Macmillan.

Last year alone the coffee mornings raised £25 million and this year they are hoping to have raised even more.

Pub boss delighted at real ale accolade

A BRIERLEY Hill pub is raising a glass in celebration having been listed in CAMRA's Good Beer Guide 2017.

The Waterfront Inn, on Level Street, has been given the honour in recognition of the quality of its real ale.

CAMRA's local branch members chose the Wetherspoon pub following regular visits to check on the quality of the real ales on offer. They also took into account customer service, décor and overall atmosphere.

The pub's manager, Lucia Davies, said: "I am delighted that The Waterfront Inn has been recognised for the quality of its real ales by CAMRA members."

"We offer our customers an excellent range of real ales at all times, including those from regional brewers and micro-brewers, as well as hosting our own beer festivals."

"Staff at the pub work hard to ensure that the real ales on offer are kept in first-class condition at all times and the pub's inclusion in the guide highlights this."

Pub landlord who loved the Black Country has died aged 93

THE former landlord of one of the Black Country's historic real ale pubs has died, just short of his 94th birthday.

Reg Hooper, born in Amblecote in 1922, ran the Foley Arms, Brierley Hill, with his late wife, Ethel, in the late 1970s.

The pub, now known as The Wellington, fronted the famous Simpkins brewery in Brettell Lane, Silver End.

After leaving school aged 14, Reg became a tiler. In 1942 he was one of the first recruits to the newly formed RAF Regiment set up to guard airfields.

Two years later he transferred to the 2nd Battalion of the Coldstream

Guards and served in Italy until 1946.

After the war Reg and Ethel, who had married in 1942, went into the pub trade, starting at the Kings Head at Old Hill.

Firm

At the same time Reg founded his own business in ceramic wall and floor tiling with eventually up to a dozen tilers employed by the firm.

Reg and Ethel lived in Cradley before taking on the stewardship of the Churchill and Blakedown Golf Club for three years and then moving to the Foley Arms.

On retirement they moved to Forest

Houses at Callow Hill, Bewdley, and finally to a bungalow in Newnham Bridge, near Tenbury Wells.

The couple were both keen on Black Country history and joined the Wyre Forest branch of the Black Country Society. They were enthusiastic members of Sing Wi' We, a senior choir.

Reg and Ethel were married for 67 years until her death in 2010 at the age of 88. Reg, who passed away in Tenbury Wells Hospital on October 3, is survived by a daughter and son-in-law, two grand-daughters, six great-grandchildren, and five brothers and sisters.

The funeral will be at 1.30pm at Stourbridge Crematorium on Tuesday.



Reg and Ethel Hooper

Thousand new blood donors

MORE than 1,000 new donors have signed up to give blood in the West Midlands after a two-week campaign.

The Missing Type campaign brought together 25 blood services across 21 countries in a global drive for donors, and saw 24,000 across England sign up, and 46,000 worldwide. In total, 1,067 donors signed up in the West Midlands.

Jon Latham, NHS Blood and Transplant's Assistant Director for Donor Services and Marketing, said: "We're so grateful to everybody that has come forward to become a new blood donor and to all the brands, organisations and people who showed their support."

"Blood donation is an amazing gift - every donation given can help save or transform up to three lives."

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A pump trailer with 'CWS DUDLEY' lettered in gold on the front



Old fire coats and hats were found in the disused fire station at the Dudley factory building



The Alan Nuttall Partnership factory in Hall Street, Dudley



The hoses are still in place after more than half a century gathering dust

Secret fire station found frozen in time at factory

A FIRE station frozen in time has been found hidden inside a Dudley factory.

The room, at the Alan Nuttall Partnership factory in Hall Street, Dudley, was discovered by staff and it appears to be have untouched for more than 60 years.

The room contains perfectly preserved uniforms, with the names of the wearers chalked above them. Scrawled names include I Silk, W Price and A Round.

Documents suggest the items date back to the early 1950s, when the local Co-op, which had its own fire brigade, operated from the building.

The shopfitting firm moved into the Hall Street site in 1986 but many corners have been left unexplored until now.

A gas mask and neatly rolled-up canvas hoses are seen hanging up on one wall inside the rediscovered fire service room.

Also on display is a certificate awarded to one of the men when the

MEMORY LANE

Report by Clare Butler

Dudley brigade entered competitions with other Co-op forces. There are even programmes from events dating from the 1950s.

Marketing manager for the Alan Nuttall Partnership, Anna Bamford said: "I have only been with the company for about nine weeks and was really excited to hear about it."

"It had just been locked up and never opened again."

Information

She continued: "Something like this we were really keen to know more about it and speak to anyone who may have worked there in the past."

"At the minute, we have minimal information about it but, looking towards the future, we would love to think if any of the items could go on display - maybe at a fire station museum somewhere."

"Nothing has been touched, at the minute, and it's still covered in dust."

"If there is anyone who is interested in restoring it, or giving us some advice, we'd love to hear from them."

"I have already taken a call from a gentleman who used to go on holiday with one of the firefighters who used to work there too - so there's really interesting information coming in."

Matt Hornblower, Nuttall's operations director, said that the most impressive piece in there is a pump trailer, powered by an engine. It is still bright red, with 'CWS DUDLEY' proudly lettered in gold on the front.

Mr Hornblower added: "There's still air in its tyres and just a few spots of oil on the floor beneath."

Anyone with information about the room or who is interested in restoring the items, should call Anna Bamford on (01384) 245100 or email anna.bamford@nuttalls.co.uk

The factory was also munitions manufacturer during the First World War and later made Bean Cars.

It now employs more than 600 staff.



On the peg for some 60 years - a fireman's uniform found in the forgotten room at the Dudley factory

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Family is taking legal action over holiday hell

A FAMILY whose two-week holiday to the Dominican Republic was ruined by gastric illness are furious after being offered just £50 off their next trip by the travel company.

Kristie and Mark Hughes, from Stourbridge, are now taking legal action after they and their children Jade, aged 19, and Daniel, 11, fell ill at the four star Memories Splash Punta Cana resort.

They claim there were hygiene failings at the resort, including birds and flies hovering over food, but tour operator First Choice has only agreed to the small discount to recompense the family.

Mrs Hughes said: "We were really looking forward to the holiday and the opportunity to really relax as a family, what we experienced was anything but."

Problems

"There were problems with the hotel from the off with eggs not cooked properly, there were birds in the restaurant and flies over the food."

"Once we noticed we were so careful, but in the end it was too late."

Daniel fell ill with vomiting. The following day,

By Judith Hawkins

Kirstie, Mark and Jade all began suffering gastric symptoms.

Mrs Hughes added: "When First Choice contacted us to offer us £50 off our next holiday we were stunned and then disgusted. It just added insult to injury."

They were so outraged at the response that the family have instructed legal firm Irwin Mitchell to take on their case.

Jatinder Paul, international personal injury lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: "What the Hughes family experienced was incredibly distressing."

A First Choice spokesman said the company monitored resorts where it operated to ensure hygiene was in line with industry standards.

Black Country HQ for car restoring TV show



Fuzz Towshend (left) with presenter Tim Shaw have found a Black Country base for their hit TV show

A HIT TV show in which classic cars are restored to their former glory has launched a new base in the Black Country.

Fuzz Towshend, one of the presenters of Channel 4's Car SOS – and also the former drummer in Stourbridge based Pop Will Eat Itself – will be filming the latest series of the show at a garage unit at the Springfield industrial estate in Oldbury.

In the show, presenter Tim Shaw and former Dudley bus mechanic Fuzz take on restoration projects which have proved beyond owners' ambitions.

Towshend and business partner Dave Tassell run To-Ta Classics and have agreed a five-year lease on the 5,548 sq ft unit on the industrial estate, which is owned and managed by London & Cambridge Properties.

"These are exciting times. To-Ta Classics sees myself and Dave Tassell join forces in a purpose-equipped workshop – a top class classic car maintenance. It will also be the base for the next series of Car SOS," said Fuzz.

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Tips tops for family fun with a touch of tragedy



An evacuee arrives at school in 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, Kneehigh's collaboration with Michael Morpurgo

946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips
Birmingham Rep

BURDENED though it is by a long and convoluted title, this new play from a Michael Morpurgo story is an exhilarating and hugely enjoyable production for all the family.

It is based on a hushed-up wartime tragedy during the preparations for D-Day, that saw 946 US troops killed off the coast of Devon when ambushed by Nazi German E-boats. Yet it is actually a joyously life-affirming show with only brief moments of sadness.

The play centres on Lily Tregenza, a 12-year-old farm girl, missing her father away at war but embracing every new experience as London evacuees come to her village, then black American GIs bearing gifts of candy and

THEATRE REVIEW

hot dogs. When Lily is forced to leave her farm, she enlists her new friends to find her missing cat Tips. Then the irrepressible young girl is faced with the realities of war.

Katy Owen, recently seen as Puck at London's Globe theatre, is a full of restless energy as Lily, racing around the stage as if the theatre can barely contain her. She also has a knack for inspired silliness and slapstick humour, joining in with the dynamic jiggerbugging Yanks.

This production by Cornish company Kneehigh, adapted for the stage by Morpurgo and Kneehigh's Emma Rice, gleefully breaks lots of rules – a couple of female roles are played by

men, actors sometimes talk direct to audience members, the on-stage band blast out pop favourites. It also includes a few anachronisms (would a 1940s schoolgirl know kung fu poses?) but it is all done with such boisterous good humour that the audience is happily carried along.

The massacre at sea is represented with tin baths, toy soldiers and streamers. Odd but strangely effective.

Tips shares with Morpurgo's major stage success War Horse a backdrop of sadness and a clever use of puppets, albeit on a much smaller scale (literally). But you will wiping away more tears of laughter than sadness.

It continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

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A scene from hit musical Miss Saigon, from the creators of Les Miserables, coming to Birmingham next summer

Blockbuster musicals in Hippodrome new season

LEGENDARY musical Miss Saigon and current West End hit Funny Girl are among the spectacular shows announced in the new season at Birmingham Hippodrome.

New productions on sale for 2017 include the major new UK tour of Sir Cameron Mackintosh's Miss Saigon; a first time visit from original high-school musical Grease; rags-to-riches musical Funny Girl.

There will also be a new production of The Addams Family, a kooky musical

comedy Broadway success from the writers of the hit musical Jersey Boys.

Fiona Allan, artistic director and chief executive of Birmingham Hippodrome, said: "Birmingham Hippodrome has an enviable reputation for the productions it is able to attract, from West End musicals through to opera and, of course, the UK's biggest panto."

Miss Saigon will be at the Hurst Street theatre for most of next summer, whilst Funny Girl opens in May, Grease in June and The Addams Family in July.

Tickets have already been selling for previously announced blockbuster Billy Elliot, being staged at the Hippodrome in March and April.

This year's panto will see showman and Torchwood star John Barrowman take on the title role of Dick Whittington in a magical new production from December 19 to January 29. Joining him will be EastEnders bad boy Steve McFadden as King Rat, veteran comedy duo The Krankies, Hippodrome favourite Matt Slack and Jodie Prenger as Fairy Bow Bells.

See www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000.

Tempest caught in the doldrums

BALLET REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Tempest Birmingham Hippodrome
THE Birmingham Royal Ballet brought their Shakespeare season to an end with company director David Bintley's new full-length ballet based on the Bard's final play.

The production began with a spectacular shipwreck, which was apt because I got that sinking feeling as soon as we were introduced to a jolly crew of hornpipe dancing sailors. They were thankfully cast overboard as monster waves, effectively suggested by giant billowing sheets, were summoned by the magician Prospero.

After the drama of a storm at sea, we got to meet Shakespeare's characters – the vengeful castaway Prospero and his innocent young daughter Miranda, their native slave Caliban, plus various Italian nobles and retinue shipwrecked on the island so Prospero can punish them for stealing his crown.

Commanding

Iain Mackay was a commanding presence as the wronged magician and former Duke of Milan, who takes revenge on the King of Naples and his own brother Antonio, the usurper who took his dukedom. However, he seemed to do more glaring than dancing in this oddly gloomy production.

Similarly, Jenna Roberts as Miranda was a wasted asset, particularly in the second act. But her act one closing pas de deux with Joseph Caley's dependable Ferdinand was a highlight. It was especially effective as it was accompanied by a romantic melody, as much of the score by Sally Beamish got the orchestra to bash and clatter annoyingly.



Caliban, danced by Tyrone Singleton, emerges from his shell in The Tempest

As Prospero's slave Caliban, Tyrone Singleton danced the part with his usual vigour – going from an apish malevolence to noble savage – although his costume made him look like he had escaped from a Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer sketch.

Mild comedy came from Valentin Olovannikov as the drunken butler and James Barton as the cowardly jester, teased by Mathias Dingman's suitably quick and impish air spirit Ariel.

For me the finest section was the

masque conjured by Prospero in which old world gods and goddesses dance for Miranda and Ferdinand. Tzu-Chao Chou was a goatisly nimble Pan, Lachlan Monaghan a trident-toting dizzying spinning Neptune with Celine Gittens, Yvette Knight and Delia Mathews as an elegant trio of art-deco style toga-wearing goddesses. It reminded me of Bintley's delicious and delicious reworking of Sylvia, part of BRB's repertoire.

The BRB return with festive favourite The Nutcracker in November.

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Autumn

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Safety work is due to start at busy junction in January

Bros back together for reunion show



Matt and Luke Goss – Bros reunion tour comes to Birmingham Barclaycard Arena on August 25

EIGHTIES pop stars Bros are coming back for reunion shows, including a concert at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena next summer. Matt and Luke Goss have not played together since 77,000 packed into Wembley Stadium in August 1989.

Propelled by smash hit *When Will I Be Famous*, Bros ruled the pop world from 1987 to 1992. They were the youngest band to headline Wembley Arena, playing 19 shows at the venue. Debut album *Push* went seven times Platinum and was number one in 20 countries.

Matt has gone on to become a popular crooner, selling five million albums, having a residency at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and headlining at Wembley Arena in his own right. Luke turned to Hollywood and had roles in *Hellboy II*, *Blade II*, and TV series *Frankenstein* and *Red Widow*.

Tickets have gone on sale for the gig at the city centre venue on August 25 with prices from £45.80 to £113.30. See www.theticketfactory.com or call 0844 3388 222.

Call to give five to help sight charity thrive

PEOPLE who get their hands on a crisp new plastic fiver are being urged to donate it to help people suffering blindness.

The Beacon Centre is the latest charity to get involved in a social media craze which has seen people donating their first brand new notes to good causes.

There has been a surge of people taking to Twitter to donate the first of the new £5 notes they receive using the hashtags #firstfivers and #fiveriver.

The Beacon Centre's head of enterprise Tracey Ford said: "The services provided by the charity across the region are vital for people living with sight loss, young

or old. A £5 donation would pay for one of our service users to go on a tandem cycling session, so it's money that could make a real difference to people who are living with sight loss in your community."

The new note triggered a social media trend dubbed #FiverGiver with the public urged to donate the first note they receive to their charity of choice – and shout about it online.

The movement started when Twitter user and corporate fundraising consultant, Johnny Five, challenged his followers to take on the challenge. To donate your £5 to Beacon, text BEAC05 £5 to 70070.

MAJOR improvements will be made at a busy junction in Halesowen to tackle congestion and improve safety for pedestrians.

A six-month scheme will overhaul the junction at Dudley Road and Coombs Road in Halesowen, with work to get under way in January.

A pedestrian crossing will be added while the layout of the junction will be altered make it easier for traffic to get onto Dudley Road.

Highways bosses have been trying to find a solution to the problems faced at the junction. Drivers are regularly stuck in delays on Coombs Road during rush hour as traffic heading for the M5 backs up from Manor Way.

Nearly 7,000 people work on the Coombs Wood Business Park and vehicles leaving the site only adds to the delays.

And with around 300 homes set to be built in the area over next five years, bosses want to act now.

Report by Richard Guttridge

Chiefs were also keen to improve safety for pedestrians at the junction, which is close to both Halesowen College and Earls High School.

Currently, schoolchildren and college students have to wait for traffic to stop at the traffic lights before crossing the road but there is no designated pedestrian crossing.

Almost £3 million has been awarded to Dudley Council from the Black Country Executive Committee's Local Growth Fund for the scheme.

Updated

Dudley Council's highways boss Hilary Bills said: "Halesowen College, Earls High School and a lot of other schools are near there so there are a lot of young people who cross there. There is also a of new housing in the area

"It really hasn't been updated to make

sure it is suitable for pedestrians and that is what is going to happen."

It is the latest highways improvement scheme for the borough following major changes near the Merry Hill shopping centre. That scheme has seen traffic lights upgraded on the main A4036 to ease congestion.

The project is expected to last until the summer and is likely to cause delays. Councillor Bills said the majority of the work would be carried out outside of peak times.

Meanwhile, a road in Halesowen will be temporarily closed for 11 days while gas work is carried out.

Lydate Road will shut from the junction with Bourne Avenue from October 17 to 28.

The 30-metre closure will enable Balfour Beatty to carry out essential gas main replacement work. Diversions will be along Bourne Avenue, Frankley Avenue, Howley Grange Road and vice-versa.

Leaders look to past and future

THE region's industrial heritage was on the minds of business leaders when the Institute of Directors (IoD) held a Black Country dinner at the home of Dudley Canal & Tunnel Trust.

The Portal Building provided the backdrop as many IoD members took up the offer of a pre-dinner boat trip into the Dudley canal tunnel and the limestone caverns beneath the town.

Richard Jones, an active member of the trust since its foundation in the early 1960s, spoke of the work of the trust that has seen the tunnel and canal become a conservation area and popular attraction.

IoD Black Country branch chairman Ian Priest pointed to members at The Portal "the contribution of the sheer hard graft of Black Country men and women" who had built the tunnel. "This area has changed almost beyond recognition but it remains the manufacturing heart of the country," he said.

Dan Lewis, IoD senior advisor for infrastructure policy, highlighted the potential benefits of upgrading the UK's broadband network.

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Tues 1 Nov. 19.10-20.10 6 wks. £21.60

MUSIC

PLAY THE GUITAR

Intermediates: Mon 31 Oct. 19.00-21.00 6 wks. £40.20#
Beginners: Tues 1 Nov. 19.00-20.30 6 wks. £32.40#
Improvers: Thurs 1 Nov. 19.00-20.30 6 wks. £32.40#

PLAY THE GUITAR FOR CHILDREN (8YRS+)

Beginners L1 Mon 31 Oct. 16.45-17.45 6 wks. £54.90
Beginners L2 Mon 31 Oct. 17.45-18.45 6 wks. £54.90
Improvers Thurs 3 Nov. 17.45-18.45 6 wks. £54.90
L1 = Level 1 L2 = Level 2

QUALIFICATIONS

BRITISH SIGN LANGUAGE LEVEL 1 ****NEW****

Thurs 12 Jan 17. 19.00-21.00. 11 wks.

Price to be confirmed. Please register your interest.

DUDLEY MBC INDUCTION TRAINING FOR POOLSIDE ASSISTANTS

Tues 3 Jan 17. 09.00-12.00. 3hrs. £19.20

NATIONAL POOL LIFEGUARD

Mon-Sat 20-25 Feb 17. 08.30-17.00. £220.00

Mon-Sat 10-15 Apr 17. 08.30-17.00. £220.00

(Includes course manual and assessment fee)

Please check our website for course requirements

BESPOKE COURSES

DO YOU HAVE A GROUP OF STAFF WHO REQUIRE:

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

NATIONAL RESCUE TEST FOR SWIMMING

TEACHERS AND COACHES

POOL LIFEGUARD

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Funded by
Skills
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Agency



Reduced Fees: Where you see this # sign the course is supported by The Skills Funding Agency. If you are in receipt of certain benefits fees are reduced to 25%. Price in brackets () includes additional costs.

Course Dates: Courses are suspended on 24th to 30th October unless stated otherwise

This programme is subject to change:

particularly if we are unable to recruit minimum class numbers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure that this programme and the pricing is accurate at the time of publication, changes and errors may occur. We reserve the right to amend details as required.

PLEASE NOTE: A 1.2% charge will be added to all credit card payments processed through Dudley MBC. Debit card payments remain unchanged.

Use your Smartphone to read our QR (quick response) code. It will take you to our website.

FRIDAY WORKSHOPS

KEEP SAFE ONLINE

Fri 21 Oct. 09.30-11.30. 1 wk. £7.20

INTENSIVE COURSES

CREATE YOUR OWN BAG

Fri 11 Nov. 12.30-14.30. 3 wks. £21.60#

HOW TO USE A SEWING MACHINE

Fri 25 Nov. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £27.90#

HOW TO USE AN OVERLOCKER

Fri 25 Nov. 09.30-12.30. 2 wks. £27.90#

FIRST AID

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Fri 11 Nov. 9.00-12.00. 2 wks. £38.40

PAEDIATRIC FIRST AID.

Fri 21 Oct. 9.00-13.00 1/2 day. £25.60
Fri 9 Dec. 9.00-13.00 1/2 day. £25.60

FAMILY LEARNING

The price includes a place for one adult (aged over 19) and a child.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO SWIM

Children 18 mths-4yrs

****NEW**** Tues 1 Nov. 10.30-11.15. 6 wks. £22.50#

Sat 5 Nov. 09.00-09.30. 6 wks. £15.00#

****NEW**** Sun 6 Nov. 13.30-14.15. 6 wks. £22.50#

FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHY

****NEW**** Tue 17 Jan 17. 16.00-17.30 5 wks. £22.50#

NEW COURSES for 2017

Please call to register your interest

CAKES AND CAKE DECORATING

Tues 17 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

HEALTHY COOKING

Thurs. 19 Jan. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

Thurs. 2 Mar. 19.00 - 21.00. 5 wks. £36.00#

PUDDINGS

Tues 28 Feb. 19.00 - 21.30. 5 wks. £36.00#

MINDFULNESS **NEW** class starting January

FRENCH **NEW** Beginners starting January

ITALIAN **NEW** Beginners starting January

SPANISH **NEW** Beginners Daytime and Evening courses starting January

LEARN TO SCULPT IN STONE

NEW Beginners starting January

POTTERY **NEW** Beginners starting January

Learning4Life are looking for a Ballroom Dancing Teacher. If you have any teaching experience please call Julie on 01384 816043



LEARNING4LIFE SWIM SCHOOL

Spaces Available for October

Term Dates: Monday 31 Oct. to Sunday 11 Dec 2016 **Costs: 6 wks.**

First Steps (ages 3 1/2), Pre Beginners (min age 4), Beginners, Improvers £26.40. Intermediates 1, 2 and 3 £22.80. Rookie Lifesaving (min age 8), Survive & Save (min age 11 1/2) £28.50

Our commitment to you:

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For more information on availability please call 01384 816043

Tel.01384 816043. Mon to Fri. 9.30 - 13.30
studentservices@learning4life.co.uk www.learning4life.co.uk



Get signed and SEAL-ed to keep winter blues at bay

Commercial feature

Sorry for the reminder but winter will soon be here! We all know how the cold affects our lives but for many people there is more that they could do to prepare for the wintry weather to come?

Let SEAL Energy Ltd help you take some of the chill out of winter! SEAL Energy Ltd is a local heating and insulation company. We have been operating since 1982 helping thousands of local people within the wider Midlands area to stay warmer and save on their heating bills.

We can help with: Free cavity wall insulation; free loft insulation; free room in roof insulation; low cost finance to cover high efficiency condenser boiler installation; low cost finance to cover external wall insulation.

Finance

And more – all of the free work is funded by the fuel utilities through the government's ECO scheme and has 25-year guarantees in place for extra peace of mind. We also have extremely attractive finance packages available for boiler installation and external wall insulation.

You could have a high efficiency "A-rated" Worcester Bosch condenser boiler supplied and fitted for as little as £23.25 per month. And, with our packages, what you see is what you get.



A big thumbs-up from the highly-skilled heating and insulation workforce of SEAL Energy Ltd

There are no tricks or surprises, no gimmicks, no false offers just to get our salesman in the door – just an excellent price for an excellent job. You might also consider external wall insulation. Not only could this save you up to

£455 per year, year on year but you will give your home a complete facelift.

External wall insulation can transform an old tired-looking house into a clean and sparkling new home that you will be proud of. It will, as

with all insulation, also reduce or eradicate any condensation dampness that you have.

SEAL Energy Ltd has a highly skilled workforce that we are proud of and we have all of the necessary industry accreditations from

Gas Safe, to BBA PAS2030. Put your trust in SEAL Energy Ltd, to insulate your home and upgrade your heating – you won't regret it! Call us free for advice or a no obligation quote on – 0800 107 3847 – and have a happy winter!



Low cost finance is available for high efficiency condenser boiler installation

TRANSFORM THE LOOK OF YOUR HOME AND CUT YOUR ENERGY BILLS!

0% or BUY NOW PAY AUTUMN 2017, or LOW COST LOAN OPTIONS.

Finance packages to suit everyone

Get a high efficiency "A rated" Worcester Bosch condenser boiler for £23.25 per month



From This...



To This!

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- ✓ Upgrade and improve appearance of building
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- ✓ Prevent condensation
- ✓ 25 year guarantee
- ✓ Low interest finance
- ✓ Free loft insulation

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from £87.35 per month

Cash Price = £9995.00. Deposit required = £2498.75 (Min 25%). Total amount of credit = £7496.25. 120 monthly instalments of £87.35. Total repayable = £10482.00. 7.3% APR representative.



- ✓ Reduce heating bills by £350 pa (detached house)**
- ✓ 5 year manufacturer's warranty
- ✓ No deposit
- ✓ Low interest finance
- ✓ Free cavity and loft insulation

New Worcester Bosch Condenser Boiler supplied and fitted

£23.25 per month

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*Seal Energy Ltd is a Credit Broker (not a lender) and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct authority. We offer credit facilities from a Panel of Lenders **All figures from EST website



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- Where can you get up to 70% off High Street prices?
- What florist in Stourbridge High Street will soon be selling festive wreaths, arrangements and gifts?

Susan Jones competition Stourbridge Chronicle closing date 21/10/2016
Express and Star, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

Mr/Mrs/Miss First Name Surname

Address

Postcode Tel No Email

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature

I would like to spend my prize money with

Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 21/10/16. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

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Tel: 01384 374237 or 0800 1582456
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fast the ticket

Court in session

A Tale worth telling – Page 25



**Beliebe –
Page 25**



**NATIVE
MONSTER**
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For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

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£79.95

- ★ Steaming through the Peak & Matlock Bath Illuminations
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SATURDAY 29 Oct

Christmas Lunch Day Trips!

<p>Chatsworth Christmas Celebrations & Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Wed 14 Dec</p> <p>£39.95</p>	<p>Leamington Spa Christmas Market & Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Sun 4 Dec</p> <p>£26.95</p>
<p>Shakespeare's Stratford Christmas Market & Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Sun 11 Dec</p> <p>£26.95</p>	<p>Matlock Victorian Christmas & Steam Train Special</p> <p>Sun 4 Dec</p> <p>£37.95</p>
<p>Ironbridge Victorian Christmas & Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Sun 11 Dec</p> <p>£34.95</p>	<p>Ludlow Castle Medieval Christmas Fayre & Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Sun 27 Nov</p> <p>£31.95</p>
<p>Moreton in Marsh Christmas Market & Christmas Lunch</p> <p>Tues 13 Dec</p> <p>£27.95</p>	

MENU (sample)
Soup of the day

Roast Turkey with all the trimmings and a selection of seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Christmas Pudding served with Brandy Sauce

Tea or coffee (Registration option on request)

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SUN 27 Nov, 11 Dec - Rochester Xmas Market
Sat 17 Dec - London Southbank Xmas Market

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- ★ Includes visit to Liverpool's Albert Dock

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SATURDAY 3 Dec

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353 227**

Express & Star

Steve Mason



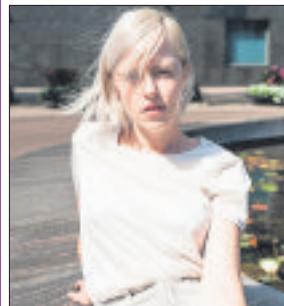
Monday, 7.30pm
The Glee Club, Birmingham
Former lead singer of The Beta Band comes to the Arcadian with his new band to perform songs from his acclaimed solo album Meet The Humans. Visit www.glee.co.uk/music/birmingham/

Tchaikovsky Symph. Orchestra



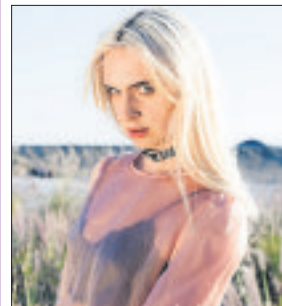
Friday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
The Moscow-based orchestra perform Tchaikovsky's Second Piano Concerto, featuring acclaimed young Russian pianist Pavel Kolesnikov (pictured), who will also be interviewed at 6.15pm. Visit tsh.co.uk

Amber Arcades



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath
Following a summer of festivals Dutch singer-songwriter Annelotte De Graaf (AKA Amber Arcades) brings her beguiling electronic pop, as heard on debut Fading Lines, to the Brum pub. Visit hareandhoundsskingsheath.co.uk

MØ



Saturday, 7pm
Rainbow Warehouse, Digbeth
The feisty Danish synth pop star found success singing (and co-writing) Major Lazer and DJ Snake's Lean On. Nimmo are supporting. Visit birminghampromoters.com/listings

ROCK & METAL

ALL TVVINS + Fears Chella
Tonight, £8
The Sugarmill,
Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

ELO Experience
Tonight, £17.75 - £18.75
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

Money For Nothing
Tonight, £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

**Bon Giovi – The UKs
No1 tribute to Bon Jovi**
Tonight, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Nickelback
Tonight,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

**The Australian Pink
Floyd Show 2016**
Tonight,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Into The Shadows
Tomorrow,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

Wilko Johnson
Tomorrow,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

**The Girl From Mars:
The Britpop Show**
Tomorrow, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Ferocious Dog
Tomorrow
The Sun Inn, Llangollen,
LL20 8HN.
Call 01978 860079

The Feeling
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

**The Grateful Dudes –
Grateful Dead Tribute**
Sun, £7 - £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Tubes – Pulp Tour 2016
Tue, £22.50 - £25
The Robin 2, Bilston,
WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Steel Panther
Wed,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace,
Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

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Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

**The Rescue
Blues Album Launch**
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

**Joanne Shaw Taylor +
special guest Aaron Keylock**
Mon, £20
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate
Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

CLASSICAL

**Piano Recital
by Rebecca Omordia**
Today,
The Birmingham & Midland
Institute, B3 3BS.
Call 0121 236 3591

**Tchaikovsky
Symphony Orchestra**
Tonight, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA,
Call 0121 780 3333

Traditional Music Session
Sun,
The Prince of Wales Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

**Birmingham
Philharmonic Orchestra**
Sun,
The University of Birmingham,
Edgbaston, B15 2TT.
Call 0121 414 4117

**Choir of the Year
2016 Category Finals**
Sun,
Symphony Hall, Birmingham,
B1 2EA,
Call 0121 780 3333

Grimethorpe Colliery Band
Sun, £22
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

POP

All Saints
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Tony Hadley
Tomorrow, £22.50 - £65
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham,
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

MØ
Tomorrow, 7pm
The Rainbow Warehouse,
Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Jamie Lawson
Sun,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

**Justin Bieber – The
Where Are You Now Tour**
Mon - Tue,
Barclaycard Arena,
Brindleyplace,
Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Bars and Melody
Mon,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Steve Mason
Mon, 7.30pm
Glee Club Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Amber Arcades
Tue, 7.30pm
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,
Birmingham, B14 7JZ.
Call 0121 444 2081

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Nell Bryden
Tonight, £19
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate
Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Remi Harris
Tomorrow, £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

**Loudon Wainwright III + special
guest Chaim Tannenbaum**
Tue,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Blowin' In The Wind
Tue, £16.50 - £17.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

FESTIVALS

**Bostin' Days 2
Festival live @ Robin 2**
Tonight - Sun, £30
**All proceeds to
Air Ambulance charities**
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

CLUBBING

Uprawr
Tomorrow, Free entry
The Asylum, Birmingham,
B19 3LS.
Call 0121 233 1109

**Legacy presents Louie
Vega at The Rainbow Venues**
Tomorrow,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

COMEDY

Kerry Godliman – Stick or Twist
Tonight,
Glee Club Birmingham,
B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

Jason Byrne is Propped Up
Tonight,
William Aston Hall,
Glyndr University, Wrexham,
LL11 2AW.
Call 01978 290666
and
Sun, £17.50
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

**Josh Widdicombe:
What Do I Do Now**
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

**Al Murray – Let's Go
Backwards Together**
Tomorrow,
William Aston Hall,
Glyndr University, Wrexham,
LL11 2AW.
Call 01978 290666

**Jasper Carrot's
Stand Up And Rock**
Sun,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

Ross Noble – Brain Dump
Mon - Tue,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

**Hal Cruttenden:
Straight Outta Cruttenden**
Wed, £18
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

**Angelos & Barry: The
New Power Generator**
Thu,
Artrix, Bromsgrove,
B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Lee Hurst: Comedy Show No. 9
Tonight, £16.50
Huntingdon Hall,
CrownGate Shopping Centre,
Worcester,
WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

THEATRE

The Rocky Horror Show
Tonight - tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

**946: The Amazing
Story Of Adolphus Tips**
Tonight - tomorrow, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 – The Musical
Tonight - tomorrow
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 429212

Bardolph's Box
Tonight - tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

**All & Sundry present
Of Mice And Men**
Tonight - tomorrow, £10.75 -
£12.75
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE.
Call 01527 65203

**Jimmy Osmond:
Moon River and Me**
Tomorrow, £31.92 - £85.12
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

**Cosi Fan Tutte –
ROH Live screening**
Mon, £12 - £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

The Woman in Black
Tue - Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

Living with Luke
Tue,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382
and
Wed,
Solihull Arts Complex, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Whitney – Queen of the Night
Wed,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Psychic Sally: Call Me Psychic
Thu, £27
The Palace Theatre, Redditch,
B98 8AE. Call 01527 65203

La Voce
Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Professor Brian Cox Live
Thu,
Symphony Hall,
Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

You better Beliebe – Justin is back



Justin Bieber is coming to Brum after his latest album, Purpose, hit the number one spot in more than 100 countries

IT'S the biggest pop music event of the year for thousands of Justin Bieber fans when the young Canadian mega-star brings his Purpose World Tour to Birmingham for three concerts.

The Beliebers will be out in force with every night sold out, starting with his gigs at the Barclaycard

Arena in the city centre on Monday and Tuesday, followed next Monday, October 24, by his additional concert at the Genting Arena at the NEC.

And it will mark the pop phenomenon's second, third and fourth gigs in the region after being one of the headliners at the summer's V Festival.

His latest album, Purpose, hit the number one spot in more than 100 countries and is shattering records worldwide, including having 17 songs

in the Billboard Hot 100 in one week. He also established a new Spotify record for global streaming with more than 200 million fans streaming Purpose, his sixth album.

The 22-year-old singer and songwriter from Ontario also became the first artist, since Elvis Presley, to replace his own song as number one on the UK singles chart when Love Yourself replaced Sorry at the top of the chart.



Dickens of a great story

WELSH actor Jacob Ifan (pictured left), best known for his role as Jake Vickers in the BBC police drama series Cuffs, is to make his professional theatrical debut in a new adaptation of Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Wednesday to Saturday (October 19-22).

Joining Jacob is Joseph Timms, whose credits include Twelfth Night and Richard III (Donmar on Broadway). Shanaya Rafaat, who has appeared in Great Expectations at West Yorkshire Playhouse and King Lear at Shakespeare's Globe will also be in the cast along with National Theatre actor Sue Wallace and Royal Shakespeare Company actor Patrick Rome.

Dickens considered his novel, A Tale of Two Cities, the best story he had written, interweaving one family's personal drama with the terror of the French Revolution. It is an epic story of love, sacrifice and redemption.

This play version was first staged in Northampton in 2014, to great acclaim, and was director James Dacre's inaugural production at the theatre. It was adapted by Mike Poulton, who also adapted Wolf Hall for the RSC, and has an original score by Oscar-winning composer Rachel Portman.

Dacre said: "Our decision along with Jenny King, producer of The Touring Consortium, to revisit the production during this year of elections, referendums and revolutions across the world is motivated by a shared belief that great historical dramas can play an important role in contemporary political conversations."

Civic ready to Blast Off at venue again

LEGENDARY Wolverhampton club night Blast Off! will return for two nights before the end of the year.

On Saturday the indie night will celebrate 20 years since it was first staged and a Christmas party is planned for December 17, both at the Civic Hall.

This weekend's anniversary event will also give folks an early view of the new-look Civic as the famous venue nears completion of its £14 million revamp.

Originally planned to re-open with The Specials on November 11, the Civic will now be open throughout October, hosting the Magic of Motown on October 23, before work resumes in January.

Bostin' festival goes indoors at Robin 2

BOSTIN' Days was a Levellers tribute album featuring more than 30 artists to raise money for Devon Air Ambulance and in October 2015 the Bostin' Days Live Festival took place in Nuneaton where 20 of the acts played on two stages.

In 2016 Bostin' Days 2 comes to Bilston's Robin 2 venue over Friday and Saturday (October 14 and 15) to bring the festival atmosphere without the need for waterproofs and wellies. Tomorrow night has Ferocious Dog, Black Tar Rivers Boozy Big Band and Star Botherer. On Saturday there is music on two stages from noon until The Leylines at 10pm. All for £30.

Naturalist ready to Packham in Grand

NATURALIST Chris Packham is coming to Wolverhampton to give a talk on his career and conservation at the Grand Theatre.

Tickets for Tadpoles Not Included on Monday at 7.30pm are on sale at £19.25 and £21.25. The Springwatch presenter will be sharing his experiences of close encounters with large hungry carnivores and giving his views about conservation. The talk is illustrated with his own photographs and video.

The 55-year-old first found fame in the 1980s on The Really Wild Show. His autobiography Fingers in the Sparkle Jar: A Memoir was published in May.

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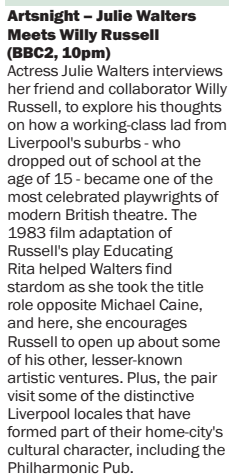
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DIGITAL



10.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen.** **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **(R)** **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **(R)** **2.00** Escape to the Country. **(R)** **2.30** The Big Bang Theory. **3.00** World Championships. Jai Douglas introduces coverage of the women's road race from Qatar. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.

6.30 **Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway.** **Ant** and **Claudia Winkleman** present as the pre-celebrity dance contest continues. So far, two couples have left the competition, and to keep hold of their chance of winning the grand final, the remaining contestants must prove their mastery of ballroom and Latin routines in live performances. As ever, judges **Len Goodman**, **Darcey Bussell**, **Bruno Toniolo** and **Craig T. Nelson** are on hand to scrutinise every move and pass their verdict, ahead of tomorrow's show, in which the results of the public vote will be revealed.

8.25 **The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star allocation. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts, and Gaby Roslin presents.

9.15 **Casualty.** Eble calls Connie's ability to focus on the job into question, and Robyn's plans for the future take an unexpected turn.

10.05 BBC News: Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League football, including Manchester City v Everton at the Etihad Stadium and Chelsea v Leicester City; National Lottery Update.

11.50 Asian Provocateur: Mum's Asian Brother. **Arindam** interviews stand-up comedian **Romesh Ranganathan** heads to Sri Lanka to connect with his roots, visiting must-see locations and taking part in traditional rituals and customs.

12.20 Film: Wedding Date. **(6.00)** **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

7.00 **Film:** *Till the End of Time*, (1946) **7.45** **Cartoon:** *The Cat in the Hat*, (1970) **8.45** **Film:** *Wuthering Heights*, (1939) **10.25** **Laurence Olivier:** *Talking Pictures*, (19) **1.00** **Lost Land of the Jaguar:** (R) **12.00** **Lorraine's Feast:** Fresh and hot, (10) **Garden of the Great British Menu:** (R) **1.00** **Great British Menu:** (R) **1.30** **Great British Menu:** (R) **2.00** **Nature's Wildest Events:** (R) **3.00** **Frog!** **4.00** **The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Eggs:** (R) **4.30** **Cartoon:** *The World*, (R) **6.00** **Inside the Commons:** Michael Cockerell examines why backbench MPs are becoming increasingly rebellious, and meets the people whose job it is to ensure that all the Commons' work is done the same way **7.00** **The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice:** Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker (R) **7.30** **A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley:** The historian examines how murder infiltrated popular culture during the Victorian era, and how the depiction of grisly crime in literature captured the public's imagination. **8.30** **Dad's Army:** Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere (R) **9.00** **The Secret Life of Sue Townsend (Aged 68 3/4):** Profile of the creator of Adrian Mole, with contributions from comedians and writers she inspired, as well as an interview from her diary, documenting her struggles with ill health. **10.00** **Artisnait – Julie Walters Meets Wiley Russell:** Julie Walters interviews her friend and collaborator Wiley Russell about his career as a playwright, and the pair explore some of Liverpool's lesser-known cultural landmarks. **10.30** **Film: The Talented Mr Ripley:** (1999) A man is paid to persuade a businessman's spoiled son to exchange his life with him, but ends up assuming his identity. Anthony Minghella's thriller, with Matt Damon and Jude Law. **12.45** **Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation:** (R) **1.45** **Film:** *Unknown*, (1956) **3.00** **The BBC Two**

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50 Sooty:** (R) **7.00 Signed:** Super Hero Girls. (R) **7.05 Super 4:** (R) **7.20 Oddbods:** (R) **7.25 Scrambled:** Scrambled! **7.30 Scrambled:** Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50 Scrambled:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled:** Super Hero Girls. (R) **8.30 Scrambled:** DC Super Hero Girls. (R) **8.45 Super Hero High:** (R) **9.05 Scrambled:** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25 ITV News:** **9.30 Murder, She Wrote:** (R) **10.10 Murder, She Wrote:** (R) **10.30 Judge Rinder:** (R) **12.15 ITV News:** Weather. (R) **12.20 The Chase:** (R) **2.20 Big Star's Little Star:** (R) **3.20 Pick Me!** (R) **4.25 Ninja Warrior UK:** (R) **5.25 Regional Programme:** Weather. **5.40 ITV News:** Weather.

6.00 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Ben Shephard presents a comedy edition of the quiz show, in which Jimmy Carr, David Hyde and Charlotte Crosby answer questions to win turns on an arcade-style machine.

7.00 Meet the Parents. New series. David Hyde, host of the comedy *Woolly*, Willoughby, which puts the love lives of singletons in the hands of the people they know best – their mum and dad.

8.00 The X Factor. The pressure is still on for the remaining contestants as each act's contract's live stage continues. As was the case last week, each of the would-be stars must once again perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, who has the girls, Nicole Scherzinger, Louis Tomlinson, and the girls of Little Mix, in charge of the groups, and Sharon Osbourne – who has the overs – as well as millions of viewers at home. Once this latest live performance is over, out of the way, Dermot O'Leary entrusts the stars' fate to the show's fans, as the public vote opens.

10.00 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Q! funnyman Alan Davies, actor and comedian Rhydian Iwan, and singer-songwriter Morgana Robinson and the newly reunited Bros. Singer Rebecca Ferguson performs live.

11.05 ITV News: Weather.

11.25 Film: Rest in Peace, Mrs Columbo. (1990) Crime drama, after Fall.

1.10 Jackpot/2.47, 3.00 Murder, She Wrote: (R) **3.30 The Nightshift:** (R)

15 **Yoktor Sport: GT Academy.** 6.40 **Yoktor Marathon.** 7.30 **Frasier.** (R) 8.00 **Frasier.** (R) 8.30 **Frasier.** (R) 9.00 **The Morning Line.** 10.00 **The Big Bang Theory.** 10.25 **The Big Bang Theory.** 10.50 **The Simpsons.** (R) 11.25 **The Simpsons.** (R) 11.55 **Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms.** 1.00 **Channel 4 Racing.** Live coverage of British Champions Day at Ascot. 4.45 **A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** 5.45 **George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** 6.40 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 The Crossrail Discovery: London's Lost Graveyard. Documentary catching up with London's Crossrail engineers less than two years after the project's start. It was uncovered the 14th-century Charterhouse plague pit. In an extraordinary turn of events, further work on the Liverpool Street station has revealed another burial ground, this time containing the remains of London's radicals, rebels and outsiders. The Bedlam burial ground, which is thought to be the final resting place of nearly 20,000 people, was believed to be lost for around 300 years. With the excavation process under way, archaeologists and historians have been using in conjunction with parish records to reveal the names and life stories of those whose remains were found on-site. Their research reveals that people came from as far afield as Africa to work in the English capital, and sheds light on how people first began to live in the city's most prolific slums. (R)

8.00 Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson. New series. The historian explores the UK's network of ancient trackways and roads, which have been walked by hundreds of thousands of people over the course of some 5,000 years.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz, with Sean Lock, Victoria Coren and Michael Leaming up against guest captain Lee Mack and Bob Mortimer.

10.00 Film: Limitless. (2011) Sci-fi thriller, starring Bradley Cooper.

12.05 Film: Starred Up. (2013) 2.05 **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R) 2.55 **Hour 1.** (R) 4.55 **Phil Spencer: The Hour.** (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Tennis. **10.55** Police Interceptors. **(R)** **12.00** Police Interceptors. **(R)** **1.00** Police Interceptors. **(R)** **2.00** Nightmare on Elm Street. **2.30** Nightmare on Elm Street. **3.00** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. **(R)** **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R)** **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. **(R)** **6.05** NCIS. Gibbs sends DiNozzo and Ziva on a decoy mission to retrieve top-secret information from a security guard who's been bid to expose a spy in NCIS. **(R)** **7.00** NCIS. Having identified the mole in their ranks, the agents arrest the traitor's contact Ted Bankston, a former NSA agent working for a kidnapper code-named "The Contractor" — who's making millions on the stock markets out of stolen military data. Drama, guest-starring David Eigenberg, with Mark Harmon, David McCallum and Cote de Pablo. **(R)** **8.00** NCIS: New Orleans. The murder of a construction worker at a Navy construction site leads Pride to a drugs cartel, but when he launches a sting, he discovers Sonja among the dealers. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** Football on 5: The Championship League. Roy and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Newcastle United v Brentford at St James' Park, Derby County v Leeds United at the iPro Stadium and Arsenal v Villa v Wolverhampton Wanderers at Villa Park. **10.00** Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the games in League One and Two, including Scunthorpe United v Milton Keynes Dons and Sheffield United v Torquay. **10.30** Britain's Greatest Bridges. Roy Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood. **(R)** **11.25** Ram Road Britain: Caught on Camera. The documentary showing how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice looks at a range of cases. **11.25** SuperCasino. **3.10** Now That's Funny! **(R)** **4.00** The Hotel Inspector. **(R)**

7.00 Four
8.00 The Lost Kingdoms of South America
8.00 The Incredible Human Journey
9.00 Film: The Keeper of Lost Causes (2013)
10.30 Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga
11.30 Southern Rock Saga
12.00 Top of the Pops: 1982
1.30 Sweet Home Alabama: The Southern Rock Saga
2.30 Southern Rock at the BBC
3.30 Close

ITV2
12.50 You've Been Framed!
1.50 Film: Paranoia (2013)
2.50 FYI Daily
2.55 Film: Paranoia (2013)
3.50 The Film: The Flintstones (1994)
5.00 FYI Daily
5.05 Film: The Flintstones (1994)
5.45 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010)
6.50 FYI Daily
6.55 Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010)
7.55 Film: The Mask (1994)
10.00 The Xtra Factor Live
10.30 Celebrity Juice
11.15 Family Guy
12.35 American Dad!
1.05 Film: American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006)
2.05 FYI Daily
2.10 Film: American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006)
3.00 Teleshopping

ITV3
11.20 Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971)
1.10 Rosemary & Thyme
2.00 Midsummer Murders
8.00 Doc Martin
9.00 Lewis
1.05 You're Only Young
2.00 Once
1.55 ITV3 Nightscreen
2.30 Teleshopping

ITV4
3.00 Film: Apache (1954)
3.45 Film: The Hanging Tree (1959)
4.45 FYI Daily
4.50 Film: The Hanging Tree (1959)
6.00 Fishing Impossible
7.00 Fierce
8.00 Storage Wars
9.00 Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986)
10.10 Film: Heartbreak Ridge (1986)
11.10 Film: Fire Down Below (1997)
12.45 FYI Daily
12.50 Film: Fire Down Below (1997)
1.50 Car Crash Global
2.40 Movies Now
2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
2.45 Road (s) Tube Short
3.00 The Goldbergs (4.00) The Big Bang Theory: Rules
9.00 Film: Paul (2011)
11.05 Gogglebox: Celebrity Special for Su2C
12.25 The Inbetweeners
1.35 Rude Tube
2.35 Gogglebox: Celebrity Special for Su2C
3.25 4.45 How I Met Your Mother
4.25 4.55 5.10 Road (s) Tube

Film4
11.00 Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012)
1.00 Vice Versa (1982)
2.55 Gulliver's Travels (2010)
3.45 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966)
6.25 Battleship (2012)
9.00 Red (2010)
11.15 (2012)
1.30 This Means War (2012)
3.30 (2012)

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Max Irons
Tutankhamun (ITV, 9pm)
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BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.30** Points of View. **2.45** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **3.45** Regional Programme. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Animal Babies. **5.50** BBC News.
6.05 Regional Programme.
6.15 **Countryside**. Matt Baker and Anita Rani explore the Isle of Wight, where Matt abseils down the walls of Carisbrooke Castle to clear the ivy and works with two donkeys to draw water from a well, while Anita helps local volunteers to round up feral goats and visits a vineyard. Naomi Wilkinson drops in at Ventnor Botanic Gardens. Adam Henson meets a commercial deer breeder, and Tom Heat reports on plans to crack down on keeping chickens in cages. Including weather for the week ahead.
7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. The two lowest scoring couples from last night's show compete in a dance-off to decide who will be eliminated. Plus, a guest performance by Madness and a tribute to James Brown.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Baddesley Clinton, a moated manor house near Birmingham. Items brought in to be valued include a controversial carving of St George.
9.00 **Poldark**. Dwigth prepares to elope with Caroline, but his plans are jeopardised when he is needed to treat Rosina's leg, and also discovers that Ross is walking into a trap.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You**. Extended edition. Stephen Mangan hosts the satirical current affairs quiz, with Ruth Davidson and Henning Wehn joining team captains Ian Hislop and Paul Merton.
11.10 **Film: Midnight's Children**. (2012) Two men switched at birth find their lives intertwined as they grow up in newly independent India. Drama based on Salman Rushdie's novel, starring Satya Bhabha.
1.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

7.45 Gardeners' World. (R) **8.45** Countryside. (R) **9.40** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.15** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.45** Food & Drink. (R) **12.15** MOTD Extra. **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Great British Menu. (R) **2.30** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.00** Flog It!
6.00 **Giraffes: Africa's Gentle Giants - Natural World**. Conservationist Dr Julian Fennessy is on a mission to learn more about the giraffes of Africa, but the most important fact is that they are disappearing. In an urgent attempt to save them, he and a determined Ugandan team round up 20 of the world's rarest giraffes to take across and beyond the mighty Nile River. The stakes are high, but if they succeed the reward will be a brighter future for an animal Dr Fennessy believes has been overlooked. (R)
7.00 **Inside Obama's White House**. Four-part series giving an account of Barack Obama's successes and failures, as told by his inner circle and chief adversaries, including the story of how he tried to reshape America. The election of the first African American President marked an era of hope, but what happened instead was economic collapse, minimal cooperation from the Republican opposition, and the rise of a populist anti-big government Tea Party. The first edition focuses on how Obama crashed a private meeting of fellow heads of state to persuade the Chinese to tackle climate change at the Copenhagen summit, as well as his struggle to shut down Guantanamo. (R)
8.00 **The Greatest Tomb On Earth: Secrets of Ancient China**. Dan Snow, Alice Roberts and Albert Lin explore the final resting place of China's first emperor, and uncover evidence that casts a new light on the founding of the nation.
9.00 **Wild West: America's Great Frontier**. Wildlife in America's mountain regions, including the Rockies and the Sierra Nevada, exploring the methods used by black bears, pikas and bison to survive in harsh conditions.
10.00 Mock the Week. (R)
10.35 **Film: Borrowed Time**. (2012)
12.00 **Film: The Magdalene Sisters**. (2002) **1.50** Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) **2.50** Holby City. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** CITV: Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled! Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled! Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled! Looped. **8.30** Scrambled! Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.05** Scrambled! Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News: Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.35** Victoria. (R) **3.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.40** Doc Martin. (R) **6.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather.
7.00 **The Chase Celebrity Special**. Bradley Walsh presents as celebrity contestants Susie Dent, Anthony Crolla, Ellie Taylor and Harry Redknapp pit their wits against ruthless quiz genius the Chaser in the hope of winning a potential prize pot worth thousands of pounds. They must work as a team and play strategically to answer general knowledge questions against the clock and race down the game board to the exit without being caught.
8.00 **The X Factor**. The results of Saturday's live show are announced, and the acts discover who is through to the next episode and who will have to compete in a sing-off to avoid elimination.
9.00 **Tutankhamun**. New series. Drama about the discovery of the Pharaoh's tomb in 1905 by archaeologist Howard Carter, whose dig is jeopardised by global events. Starring Max Irons and Sam Neill.
10.05 ITV News: Weather.
10.20 **Peston on Sunday**. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.20 **Murder, She Wrote**. Jessica Jackliffe's case in Japan, where a motorcyclist romancing the daughter of a traditional family finds his life is on the line. (R)
12.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1 The Grid. **6.40** Motorcycle Racing: Mondello Masters. **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** **Film: The Rescuers**. (1977) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Eva Gabor. **3.05** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** **Film: The Golden Compass**. (2007) Fantasy adventure, starring Dakota Blue Richards. **6.35** **Channel 4 News**.
7.00 **Pesh Pawa**. A collection of Iranian diamond and sapphire jewellery is brought in to the shop by a customer hoping to fund renovations to a villa in Cyprus. Claudia examines a handbag that once belonged to Sharon Osbourne. James swaps his usual fast cars for something a bit smaller, and the staff compete to win employee of the month.
8.00 **Child Genius vs Celebrities: SU2C Special**. Richard Osman hosts a quiz show pitting four gifted youngsters featured on Child Genius against a team of Channel 4's finest celebrity minds, made up of Alan Carr, Rachel Riley, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Aisling Bea. The teams battle it out through a series of challenges, testing their spelling, maths, general knowledge and memory, as well as individual specialist subjects.
9.00 **The Crystal Maze SU2C Celebrity Special**. Stephen Merchant hosts a one-off revival of the game show in aid of Stand Up To Cancer. A celebrity team led by Rio Ferdinand and made up of Michelle Keegan, Jonnie Peacock, Sara Cox, and Josh Widdicombe face a series of mental, physical, skill and mystery challenges in the Aztec, Medieval, Future and Industrial to win crystals and earn time for their final test in the Crystal Dome.
10.00 **Gogglebox**. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.05 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words and numbers quiz. (R)
12.10 **Film: Stoker**. (2013) **1.50** Grand Designs Australia. **2.50** The Tiny Tots Talent Agency. (R) **3.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.35** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.45** Zack and Quack. (R) **6.55** Pets. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.15** Pipit the Mouse. **7.35** Little Princess. (R) **7.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.10** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.35** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.00** The Great Birmingham Run 2016. **12.00** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.50** **Film: Big Momma's House**. (2000) Comedy, starring Martin Lawrence. **4.35** **Film: Mr Deeds**. (2002) Romantic comedy remake, starring Adam Sandler and Winona Ryder.
6.20 **Now That's Funny!** Featuring amateur athletes, a tribute to CSI with a cast of children and a talking bunny.
7.10 **Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas**. The final round of acts taking up the duo's challenge include a performer who demonstrates why you should not steal from a magician, a teenage stage magic champion, a maternal illusionist and a former contestant on America's Got Talent. Penn and Teller close the show with a vanishing one-minute egg trick. Last in the series.
8.05 **Ice Road Truckers**. Todd runs into trouble when he and rival Darrell Ward hit a newly opened trail. Plus, Polar boss Mark pairs his new recruit with company wildcard Art Burke.
8.55 **5 News Weekend**.
9.00 **Film: Divergent**. (2014) Premiere. A teenager grows up in a strictly ordered future society where people's lives are decided according to personality types. She discovers she does not fit into any of the existing categories, and must fight against a conspiracy to wipe out all those like her. Sci-fi adventure based on the book series by Veronica Roth, starring Shailene Woodley and Kate Winslet. Includes 5 News Update.
11.45 **Film: Dead Man Down**. (2013) Premiere. A gangster plotting revenge on his own boss is blackmailed by a woman into murdering the man who disfigured her. Crime thriller, with Colin Farrell and Naomi Rapace.
1.50 SuperCasino. **3.10** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Mozart in Prague: Rolando Villazon on Don Giovanni. **8.00** Len Goodman's Dance Band Days. **9.00** BBC: The Secret Files. **2.10.00** Storyville: Moazzam Begg - Living the War on Terror. **11.25** Horizon: Is Seeing Believing? **12.25** Light and Dark. **1.25** Mechanical Marvels: Clockwork Dreams. **2.25** Dissected: The Incredible Human Foot. **3.25** Close
ITV2
1.35 I'm a Celeb: Celtic Trials. **3.35** **Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas**. (2000) **4.40** **FYI Daily**. **4.45** **Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas**. (2000) **5.25** **Film: King Kong**. (2005) **6.25** **FYI Daily**. **6.30** **Film: King Kong**. (2005) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live. **10.00** Family Guy. **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show. **1.20** Dating in the Dark. **2.15** Teleshopping. **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen
ITV3
12.35 Lewis. **2.35** **Film: Caddyshack**. (1979) **4.00** **Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head**. (1966) **5.10** **FYI Daily**. **5.15** **Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head**. (1966) **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme. **7.00** Lewis. **9.00** Rising Damp Forever. **10.00** A Touch of Frost. **12.05** Lewis. **2.00** The Kindness of Strangers. **3.15** May the Best Horse Win. **4.55** You're Only Young Twice. **5.50** **ITV3** Nightscreen
ITV4
3.05 **Film: Cheyenne Autumn**. (1964) **4.10** **FYI Daily**. **4.15** **Film: Cheyenne Autumn**. (1964) **4.15** **Film: Apache**. (1954) **7.15** **FYI Daily**. **7.20** **Film: Apache**. (1954) **8.00** **Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike**. (1996) **9.10** **FYI Daily**. **9.15** **Film: Jackie Chan's First Strike**. (1996) **9.45** **Film: Kull the Conqueror**. (1997) **10.45** **FYI Daily**. **10.50** **Film: Kull the Conqueror**. (1997) **11.50** **Film: Ronaldo**. (2015) **12.50** **FYI Daily**. **12.55** **Film: Ronaldo**. (2015) **1.40** The Big Fish Off. **2.30** World Cup Rivalries: Brazil v Italy. **2.45** **ITV4** Nightscreen. **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.00 Made in Chelsea. **1.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **2.00** The Goldbergs. **3.00** **Film: Stuart Little**. (2000) **4.45** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory. **6.00** **Film: Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs**. (2009) **7.50** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts. **8.00** The Big Bang Theory. **10.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday
Film4
1.00 Bandstand. (2009) **3.10** The House of Magic. (2013) **4.50** Fantastic Mr Fox. (2009) **6.35** Vertical Limit. (2000) **9.00** The A-Team. (2010) **11.20** Red Lights. (2012) **1.35** The Boss, Anatomy of a Crime. (2015) **3.40** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Red Dragon, Channel 5, 11.05pm
The FBI agent who first captured Hannibal Lecter is called out of retirement to catch a demented murderer dubbed the Tooth Fairy, who slaughters a family whenever there is a full moon – forcing the detective to draw on the imprisoned cannibal's expertise in criminal psychology. Thriller prequel adapted from the first of Thomas Harris's Lecter novels, starring Anthony Hopkins, Edward Norton, Ralph Fiennes and Philip Seymour Hoffman. (2002)

TUESDAY
Too Late to Say Goodbye, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman discovers her husband is having an affair and confides in a mystery man she meets on the internet. When her spouse's lover dies under suspicious circumstances, she fears he may have murdered her – or that her online friend is not as trustworthy as he appears. Drama, starring Stefanie von Pfetten, Rob Lowe, Lauren Holly and Yannick Bisson. (2009)



American Pie: The Wedding, Friday, ITV, 10.40pm

WEDNESDAY
A Wife's Suspicion, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A forensic investigator begins to suspect her new husband is the serial killer the police department has been hunting, putting her and her ex-boyfriend – a detective on the case – in danger. Crime drama, starring Andrea Roth. (2016)

THURSDAY
The Killing Game, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Premiere. A sculptor whose daughter was murdered receives phone calls from the killer, and tries to identify him before he strikes again. Mystery, with Laura Prepon and Ty Olsson. (2011)

FRIDAY
American Pie: The Wedding, ITV, 10.40pm
The friends from East Great Falls High reunite to celebrate Jim and Michelle's forthcoming wedding. Though reluctant to invite Stifler to their big day, the happy couple relent – but regret their decision when he plans a bachelor party on the same evening Jim is due to meet the in-laws. The third instalment in the comedy series, with Jason Biggs. (2003)

Taking control of his incredible new powers

As many know from offerings like Carrie, and Village of the Damned, adolescents with psychic powers go together as well as nitro and glycerine. Now there's another young man with a 'gift' set to add a chill to your pre-Hallowe'en viewing.

This new drama comes from the pen of Paula Milne, the brains behind acclaimed offerings The Virgin Queen, The Politician's Husband, and Endgame. Her latest concerns a 17-year-old boy caught in the limbo between childhood and adulthood.

However, he's also trapped between the homes of his divorced parents Hannah (Katherine Kelly) and Edward (James Murray), each now remarried with new families.

Like most lads, he finds it difficult to process his feelings, so he tends to "act out". However, the protagonist known only as Him also has a supernatural power he inherited from his granddad.

Newcomer Fionn Whitehead plays the eponymous protagonist. He saw the audition posted on the National Youth Theatre website and applied for

it. Although Fionn didn't hear anything, he was encouraged to apply for it again by a Youth Theatre director.

"So I re-applied and included a very clear photo in the email. The casting director Daniel Edwards called me within 10 minutes," he explains. "I put a lot of it down to him, he was incredible."

Fionn was working in a cafe at the time and acting in his free time for the love of it.

"Then when I got this role it blew it all out of the water. It was not what I was expecting at all. It was amazing."

Since leaving Coronation Street, co-star Katherine Kelly has been able to choose some of the best projects in British drama, from Mr Selfridge to new Dr Who spin-off, Class. So what was it that attracted her to Him?

"It was one of the most unique television scripts I'd read," she explains. "I thought, 'This is something really different, especially for mainstream television.' A current television show that could be something really special and that always excites me. Something that is domestic but not obvious."

She adds: "It is a modern family drama and I'm sure a lot of people will relate to that. And then in the telling of it this supernatural element comes out of something a lot of teenagers will relate to. It's not something put on top. It's cleverly done."

Carrying a series is a lot for a veteran actor, let alone a newcomer, and Katherine was impressed by Fionn's natural ability to juggle all the filming and acting elements thrown at him.

"The director was very aware that Fionn was carrying the show and that's a lot of pressure on somebody so young. And the only way you can do that is to have knowledge of what's going on around him.

"You wouldn't think it was his first job," she adds. "He took it all in his stride. He's a pro already."

The first episode focuses on Him having to deal with adolescence, failing grades, the repercussions of his parents' divorce, and his feelings towards his stepsister. Then there's the additional pressure of learning to control his telekinetic powers.



Fionn Whitehead stars in Him, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Paxman on Trump vs Clinton: Divided America

BBC1, 9pm
Considering he has referred to Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton a 'dull candidate' and Republican Donald Trump a 'clown', this one-off documentary by Jeremy Paxman should make interesting viewing. Clinton once held a double-digit lead over Trump, but this has been eroded by the billionaire, partly due to health concerns when she fainted in public after suffering from pneumonia. But with the Republican nominee prone to making gaffes and alienating key demographic groups, he has failed to close the gap on her fully. Here Paxman examines the US presidential race and how it is laying bare America's class divide. He also looks at the strengths and weaknesses of each individual and attempts to predict how the election of either candidate to the White House on November 8 will change not only America, but the world.

TUESDAY
Who's Spending Britain's Billions? BBC2, 8pm

Thanks to our regular pay slips, we all know how much we are getting deducted each week or month. But as cash-strapped Britain continues to spend

less on the public sector, do we really know where our taxes are being spent? Spending on schools, hospitals and foreign aid are well debated, but in this one-off documentary Jacques Peretti looks beyond these well-known budgets to a range of less-known projects, from virtual receptionists at Brent Civic Centre to night-vision goggles being used to spy on dog walkers in Staffordshire. He finds that local councils are signing contracts with management consultancy firms who can take a percentage of any savings they find and also reveals that hundreds of millions of taxpayers' pounds are spent on contracts are covered by confidential deals.

WEDNESDAY
Little British Isles with Alison Steadman Channel 4, 8pm

TV's passion for celebrity travelogues shows little sign of abating, and in the latest beloved individual off on a tour is the woman who breathed life into classic dramas such as Abigail's Party. Life is Sweet and more recently Gavin and Stacey. A couple of years after fronting a

compelling documentary about Shetland for ITV, she now she takes us on a tour of some of the small islands that surround Britain. And there's no shortage to choose from as 267 are inhabited. The actress has always been fascinated with idyllic island life since holidaying on the Isle of Man as a youngster. In the first episode, she travels to some of Scotland's windswept Inner Hebrides, and over the course of a week she explores the sparsely populated Gigha, Jura, Colonsay and Oronsay.



Stand Up to Cancer, Friday, Channel 4, 7pm

THURSDAY
Anne Robinson's Britain BBC1, 8pm
Anne explores body image among the younger generation, investigating

whether they are under more pressure to look good than ever before. She meets make-up addicts who spend more time getting ready for a night out than on the night itself, a couple of gym obsessives in pursuit of social media followers and a young man going under the knife in the hope that one day he will be 'perfect'. She also meets some people who could not care less about how they look – including naturists happy to let it all hang out.

FRIDAY
Stand Up to Cancer Channel 4, 7pm

It's that time of year again when the main TV companies pull out all the stops for their chosen charities, and for the latest, Channel 4 have a feast of entertainment lined up. The aim, as you'll have gathered, is to persuade us to part with our cash, which will go towards finding a cure for cancer. Davina McCall, Alan Carr and Adam Hills guide us through the proceedings, and some famous faces will be giving their verdict on small screen gems in Celebrity Gogglebox. Hills returns for a special edition of The Last Leg, and a galaxy of stars, including Jamie Dornan, Michael Bublé, Britney Spears, Noel Gallagher, Olivia Colman, David Tennant, Jon Hamm and Eva Longoria have done their bit to ensure we keep that cash flooding in.

CHRONICLE



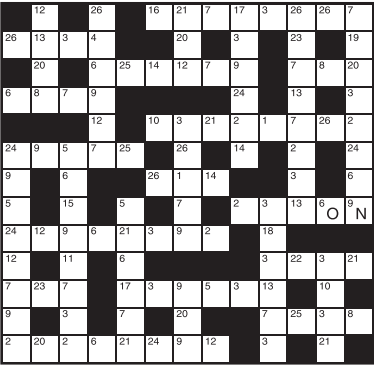
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BRAIN GYM No.399

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

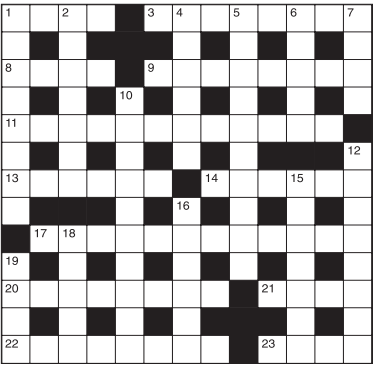


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
Y S B V I W M T J Q A U F
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Double Crossword

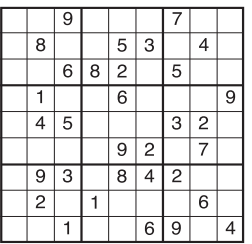
Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

- Cryptic Clues:**
- Across**
1. Dull retrograde poet (4)
 3. About to die, put bone in pile of earth (8)
 8. Boast clothing given back (4)
 9. Throw round a tree like lightning? (8)
 11. So Hun militia suffered indignities (12)
 13. Deem it nothing to include returning punctually (2,4)
 14. Does he record the runs in twenties? (6)
 17. Make a big noise to make the building taller? (5,3,4)
 20. An aristocrat of high principles? (8)
 21. Eat to celebrate Enid's comeback (4)
 22. Urgent work to make clothes look better? (8)
 23. Taking a long time to begin to make a gesture (4)
- Down**
1. You can tell a graduate by what he wears in infancy (8)
 2. Again let in mad rite (7)
 4. Its contents make for smoother running (6)
 5. Helpless with laughter after surgery? (2,8)
 6. Joining association (5)
 7. Animals initially deprived of good sustenance (4)
 10. Retired art teachers? (3,7)
 12. Do they waste time over the sweet course? (8)
 15. Disturbance - when odd trio take mixed gin (7)
 16. This tune takes much effort (6)
 18. Go at an easy pace - not enough for a wager (5)
 19. Break cooking vessels up (4)



- Quick Clues:**
- Across**
1. Fall (4)
 3. Miserable (8)
 8. Secure (4)
 9. Passage (8)
 11. Tripper (12)
 13. Endeavour (6)
 14. Winner (6)
 17. Betterment (12)
 20. Almanac (8)
 21. Certain (4)
 22. Balderdash (8)
 23. Repudiate (4)
- Down**
1. Administer (8)
 2. Functionary (7)
 4. Army recruit (6)
 5. Despotic (10)
 6. Underworld (5)
 7. Gloomy (4)
 10. Predominance (10)
 12. Lavish (8)
 15. Offering (7)
 16. Bog (6)
 18. Fruit (5)
 19. Scrutinise (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Proposition; 9 Lobster; 10 After; 11 Elite; 12 Tension; 13 Fronts; 15 Parent; 18 Operate; 20 Tip-up; 22 Eland; 23 Innates; 24 Presumption. Down: 2 Rabbit; 3 Patient; 4 Sprite; 5 Twain; 6 Outside; 7 Elderflower; 8 Bring to pass; 14 Open air; 16 Attempt; 17 Medium; 19 Andes; 21 Pail; QUICK - Across: 1 Nondescript; 9 Erected; 10 Forge; 11 Sieve; 12 Element; 13 Recess; 15 Amount; 18 Meander; 20 Upset; 22 Naive; 23 Allegro; 24 Wealthiness. Down: 2 Obese; 3 Dithers; 4 Sadden; 5 Rifle; 6 Parvenu; 7 Measurement; 8 Restitution; 14 Chalice; 16 Maudlin; 17 Breach; 19 Dwell; 21 Sages.

Thinking space



Quiz

1. In Roman mythology, of what was Janus the god?
2. Who wrote The History Man in 1975?
3. What type of creature is a orquial?
4. What is the brightest star in Ursa Minor?
5. Which novelist gave the Wars of the Roses their name?
6. In which novelist's works does the basketball player Rabbit Angstrom recur?
7. How many beats per bar are there in a waltz?
8. When is the feast day of St Patrick?
9. In which ocean are the Sea Islands?
10. Of which name has England had one king, France two and Poland three?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Malta; 2 Operation Overlord; 3 Jordi; 4 Kamikaze; 5 Dorset; 6 Sir Michael Tippett; 7 Woody Allen; 8 Myanmar (Burma); 9 112; 10 Isaac.

Niner: DUPLICATE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7852 gives an emperor,
93244 gives an explorer,
816927 gives an inventor.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

StarReaderTravel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

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DRIVETIME



Beware of terrible consequences

An alarming number of university students have admitted to using their mobile phones while behind the wheel, as well as speeding and drink driving.

According to a survey of 2,313 young Europeans commissioned by Ford, 43 per cent said they had sent texts while driving, while 38 per cent used apps and 36 per cent answered phone calls.

An additional 60 per cent said they break the speed limit, while 13 per cent had admitted to drink driving.

Comparatively, out of those who left school at 18, 45 per cent said they speed, nine per cent admitted to drink

driving and 41 per cent claimed to use their phone behind the wheel.

These findings come in light of earlier research from the World Health Organisation and the European Road Safety Observatory that found that car crashes are the leading cause of death among young people.

Ford's survey findings were published as students across Europe enjoyed Freshers' Week, a week of partying to mark the start of university life for new undergraduate students.

Jim Graham, manager at Ford Driving Skills for Life, said: "Getting to university is an incredible achievement and it is also where many of us make some of our strongest friendships."

"But we want to make sure these are lifelong friendships and help to ensure

that these young people can one day look back with pride on a successful graduation.

"It is crucial students, and all young people, understand the terrible consequences, both for themselves and for others, that taking risks behind the wheel can lead to."

Other risks university students said they would be tempted to take included driving a car overloaded with friends (48 per cent), driving with little or no sleep (75 per cent), riding in a car driven by someone they knew had been drinking (28 per cent).

It was found that 30 per cent of university students had admitted they had been in an accident, compared with 25 per cent of those who left school at the age of 18.

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Beefed up and much tastier

By John Griffiths

The often overlooked Suzuki S-Cross was among the early players in the now burgeoning compact crossover sector.

In spite of competitive pricing and a high degree of competence, what it perhaps lacked was the chunky looks demanded by those who have sent SUV sales soaring by 27 per cent this year. The car was too car-like for that.

But that's all changed, with a heavily revamped model which offers more room, a range of new hi-tech and efficient engines and importantly perhaps – if first impressions do count – the stronger, bolder looks of a full-blown SUV.

The S-Cross now comes with two small and economical (but still punchy) turbocharged petrol engines: a 1.0 litre version from the new Baleno and the 1.4 from the acclaimed new Vitara S. The revamped 1.6 turbo diesel is more familiar, but now offers lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Unlike many of its rivals, all versions are available with Suzuki's proven ALLGRIP four wheel drive on demand system.

Prices range from £14,999 for a two-wheel drive with the 1.0 Boosterjet engine, rising to £24,349 flagship model with 1.6 turbo diesel and four wheel drive. A six-speed twin clutch auto is an option with both petrol engines.

The new S-Cross is much more distinctively styled, with a bolder new grille, clam shell bonnet, broader 'shoulders' and new LED lights. It also has greater ground clearance.

Inside, it has been upgraded with some softer, more expensive-looking materials and a lot of new technology, including the central infor-

mation/control screen. The cabin has plenty of room for five adults. Leg and headroom in the back is particularly generous for this class, with a roomy 430 litre boot (875 litres with the rear seatbacks folded down). The seating position is high, one of the attractions of an SUV. It means easier access, and great visibility.

A major attraction is that you can have a smooth, comfortable car with 4x4 capability that is still economical to run and environmentally friendly. That's thanks to the combination of new engines and Suzuki's ALLGRIP 4x4 system, both geared to efficiency and fuel saving.

I must admit that, although I was mightily impressed by the 1.0 Boosterjet engine in the Baleno I did wonder how such a small, three cylinder engine would cope with a heavier 4x4. The answer is perfectly, confirming my high opinion of it in the Baleno. The figures are some illustration: 0 to 62mph in 11 seconds, an official 56.4mpg average and a low 113g/km of CO2, but that's only part of the story.

The small, turbocharged petrol engine is becoming increasingly popular with manufacturers and drivers. It has the economy advantage of a small engine under light throttle, but put your foot down and you have the added oomph from the blower.

The Boosterjet produces 110bhp and 170Nm of torque. Compare that to a current, normally aspirated 1.0 litre engine from a major manufacturer – 60bhp and 95Nm.

The torque figure is, if anything, more important than bhp. It means the Boosterjet, and consequently the S-Cross, is responsive and flexible from low revs and it drives particularly smoothly and quietly without the noise and need for constant gearchanges we experience in a more traditional engine.

During a long test drive across A and B roads in North Wales, my test car averaged an impressive 49.7mpg. Driving it was a relaxed



experience because it has the refinement of a car with a much bigger (and thirstier) car.

The 1.4 Boosterjet, of course, has more of everything. 140PS, 220Nm, a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 10.2 seconds and yet still manages better than 50mpg economy and CO2 emissions of 127g/km. It is both more powerful and more economical than the old 1.6 petrol engine it replaces.

Currently 76 per cent of all Suzuki's sold here go to private buyers, people spending their own money which says a lot for the brand.

But Suzuki is hoping to make a bigger impact on the fleet market with its 1.6 turbo diesel version of the S-Cross, with a special business-user specification, the SZ-T. With 120bhp

and 320NM of torque it can average almost 69mpg and the lowest CO2 rating of the range – 106g/km – making it one of the most tax-efficient SUVs around.

The ALLGRIP system was pioneered in the original S-Cross and is a small, light weight replacement for more traditional four wheel drive systems, aiding economy.

All models come with seven airbags and an electronic stability system, and have a five star EuroNCAP safety rating.

All models, get alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, stereo radio/CD player and Bluetooth connectivity, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, hill hold control, automatic engine stop/start and mul-

ti-function information display.

The S-Cross's bold new 'face' will probably be the first thing many potential buyers notice, but competence as well as beauty isn't just skin deep.

The latest version of the car has a practical and much improved interior, and under the bonnet the new engines are a technical tour de force, offering small capacity economy with the refinement of a bigger power plant.

The availability of four wheel drive confidence with even the smallest, cheapest versions may well be a big attraction to private buyers, but specification and tax efficiency means Suzuki should now make some bigger inroads into the lucrative fleet market.



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Understated but Alpina has superb performance

By Jack Evans

Alpina has a long-standing reputation for taking all the key cars from BMW's line-up and tweaking them in special ways.

With the B4 Biturbo, the German tuning company has brought in a BMW 435i convertible, taken away the standard car's single turbocharger and replaced it with two instead. That results in a car which produces an amount of power within striking distance of a BMW M4 Cabrio but with more torque too.

Of course, the car also gets Alpina's styling tweaks. There's the standard 20-inch multi spoke alloy wheels and aerodynamic kit. There's also a rather nice four-pipe Akropovic exhaust system at the back, to let you know that this isn't any old BMW convertible.

Alpinas have always been able to manage the look of a car that is understated, but shows sporting intent too. The B4 Biturbo convertible continues this. There's the previously mentioned bodykit, which includes a front splitter. You'll also find Alpina pin striping along the flanks of the car. This may not be to everyone's taste, but in our eyes, it looks fantastic. The large multi-spoke wheels finish the exterior look, and a ducktail spoiler at the rear looks the part too.

Inside, it'll be familiar to anyone who has seen or driven a current-generation 3 Series. BMW's excellent infotainment system remains, controlled by the i-drive rotary selector. There are, of course, certain elements of the interior that have been tweaked by Alpina. The steering wheel, for instance, is thin and trimmed in alcantara, rather than the much thicker BMW M-Sport one.

There's a leather-trimmed dash too, though on our test car, this was a hefty £1,075 option. Blue and green stitching is used throughout the cabin, while a numbered metal plaque makes you fully aware – if you weren't already – that you're driving something a little bit special.

Legroom

Despite having seating for four, the B4 is not a fully-fledged four-seater, rather a 2+2. The rear seats would be fine for children, but adults are going to find it a bit of a squeeze.

Up front, however, there's plenty of room. Legroom is decent and there's plenty of space for bottles and other items. Two large cup holders are useful, especially on hot days with the roof down. However, that roof does affect practicality. If you fold it away, you have to lower the luggage cover in the boot, heavily compromising space. It's a small thing, but users looking to lower the roof often may find it annoying.

Make no question about it, the B4 Biturbo is quick. Putting out 410bhp and 600Nm torque, it can reach 62mph in 4.5 seconds and goes on to 187mph. However, the car's approach to those figures isn't as aggressive as you might think. Powered through an eight-speed ZF auto the Alpina wafts up to speed in a more relaxing fashion than the bodykit would allow you to imagine. That exhaust isn't intrusive, giving a lovely, mechanical note under heavy acceleration.

Alpina makes sure to thoroughly change the suspension on any car it makes, and the B4 is no different. The wheels, though wearing 245/30 section tyres, bear no impact on the car's ride. In fact, you'd be hard-pressed to find a car that deals better with bumps in the road one. It is firm without jarring, which is just what you want in a convertible. This is bettered by placing the car in comfort mode. Up and running, the B4 is easy to drive quickly, with the vast amount of torque on offer making change of pace quick and effortless. It also means it is relaxing to drive on the motorway too.

The B4's steering is also excellent, helped no doubt by the thin-rimmed wheel. Alpina still curiously chooses to use buttons mounted behind the wheel rather than paddle shifters, which is one thing we'd change. That ZF gearbox still provides excellent shifts time after time, though. One annoyance was the start-stop system, which had a habit of cutting in incredibly early, and then starting again with a jolt.

Prices start at £62,950. Our test car, fitted with options such as adaptive headlights and Merino leather, came in at £72,010. Make no mistake, this Alpina is not cheap. For that money though, you get a level of subtlety that is hard to describe. Given the performance available, the car's price makes sense. When you also take into account the bespoke nature of the car's suspension and powertrain, as well as the interior, then it begins to look like good value.

If you're looking to stand out from the crowd, the Alpina perhaps isn't the best choice. If, however, you fancy driving a car that has understated presence hiding a vast amount of performance, the B4 Biturbo may well be for you.

TESTED

Model: Alpina B4 Biturbo (£62,950 base)

Engine: 3.0-litre twin-turbocharged straight-six

Transmission: Eight-speed ZF

Performance: 0-62mph in 4.5 seconds, top speed 187mph

Economy: 35.3mpg (combined)

Emissions: 186g/km CO2

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63	Ford Focus 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec, Silver, Only 4k	£9,995
65	Vauxhall Adam 1.2i Jam 3dr, Red, Only 5k	£8,695
63	Skoda Fabia 1.6 TDi CR 105 SE, Beige, Only 6k	£7,995
13	Renault Megane 1.5 DCi 110 Dynamique TomTom 3dr, (Start Stop)	£8,495
62	Vauxhall Combo W/Chair Access 1.3 CDTi 16V 5dr Easytronic, 11k	£6,795
64	Skoda Octavia 1.2 TSI S, Blue, Only 12k	£9,995

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Swedish vibes and clean lines in the V90

By Ian Donaldson

GOODNESS, hasn't Volvo changed in the six years since the Chinese took control, most obviously seen in a very un-Swedish outward display of confidence in their cars.

Once upon a time, even right into the age when Ford made the big decisions, you would have heard how safe and sensible were the cars designed in Gothenburg.

A little dull, perhaps, but so, so appealing to the inner accountant and responsible granddad in potential buyers.

They are still safe today – safer than ever, in fact, with the big XC90 SUV emerging as the safest car ever to be crashed on purpose in the respected EuroNCAP tests.

The next new Volvo along is the V90 estate and S90 saloon, tested here and both built on the same underpinnings that made the XC90 such a star performer in the safety tests.

They're sensible too, with enough room in the rear for trio of adults and luggage space that varies from generous (500 litres in the S90) to luxury van-like (560 litres) in the V90, even before you pop the split rear seats flat.

But no Volvo before has even been introduced with a graph showing it roaring away from the lights ahead of its competitors, some of them with bigger and more brutish engines doing the work.

Showcase

That point was made to both showcase the surprising power from the Volvo's 2.0 litre diesel engines (the firm has pledged never to go larger) and the clever technology on one of them that gives a boost away from the line.

That's called PowerPulse and pumps a high pressure puff of air into the turbocharger at low revs to smooth the delay you otherwise find between ordering full power and it arriving that is a downside of turbo'd motors.

Most S/V90 models won't actually have the instant turbo effect, making do with a less powerful version of the same diesel engine (D4 versus D5) that is going to be much the most popular power unit across the new range, with the D5 taking 20 per cent and the part-electric plug-in hybrid T8 Twin Engine a niche 10 per cent when it arrives next year.

Prices start at 32,555 for an S90 saloon in D4 (190hp) Momentum trim, moving up to £41,555 for an S90 D5 Momentum with all-wheel drive and a 235hp engine.

Head for a posher Inscription version and you add £3,000 and £2,500 respectively to the bottom line. Fancy an estate – most will – and there's an easily remembered £2,000 price hike across the board.

Handsome

However much you spend on the newcomer it results in a car that looks notably handsome, with uncluttered lines giving off very Swedish vibes. Same goes for the interior, with matt wood flashes in some versions adding to the Scandi furniture effect, even if some of the plastics on the dash felt a bit ungingiv.

Buy the least expensive of the newcomers and you won't feel shortchanged.

Standard kit includes all the obvious bits – sat nav, climate control, big alloy wheels, heated front seats, power boot of tailgate and leather trim.

It also feels comfortable, with typically well shaped seats and a ride that stays the right side of too-firm, if feeling modestly bouncy at times.

You can order in a so-called dynamic mode at the twist and push of a knurled wheel between the front seats, but this simply makes the steering heavier, even if the auto gear-box does then change more enthusiastically.

Drive it in comfort mode and you will still find plenty of performance, even in D4 guise (but the big surprise will come when you check the fuel consumption, with an impressive 52mpg showing after a thorough test. That might be considered as practical as can be.

How very Volvo.

TESTED

Volvo V90 D4 Momentum

Engine: 2.0 litre diesel engine, 187bhp

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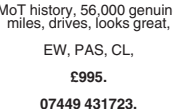


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Bob and Kevin, with, back, Cameron Darby, Dilson Santos, coach Gary Tomlinson, Ellis Clifton and Ashton Jay Pugh



Ellis Clifton is put through his paces at Lions Boxing Club by coach Kev Dillon



Bob Dillon has been helping GB to success at Olympic Games

Pride of Lions Bob helps GB to roar at Olympics

A BLACK COUNTRY voice has been helping Team GB's boxers reach the gold standard for quite some time and it was no different during Rio 2016.

Dudley's Bob Dillon serves as the GB squad's lead podium potential coach and worked with the boxers again this year. He cut short his trip to return home for an open day at the gym he founded, Lions Boxing Club in Brierley Hill, and to join his wife Julie for her 60th birthday celebrations.

In Rio, Joshua Buatsi secured GB's first boxing medal, a bronze, after a points defeat to Kazakhstan's Adilbek Niyazymbetov.

Joe Joyce followed with a silver in the super heavyweight category and Nicola Adams became a double gold medalist after repeating her triumph from London 2012.

With GB reaching its target of leaving Brazil with three medals, Dillon can take his share of the credit.

Buatsi, Joyce and Adams all came through his boxing programme, as did most of their immediate predecessors who starred at the Olympics.

Champion

He's close to Anthony Joshua, who turned pro to become a world champion after going all of the way at London 2012. He also worked Luke Campbell, who won gold and then turned over to the pro ranks.

James DeGale, who went to Beijing 2008, was another protege who joined the paid game, and went on to become the first British Olympic gold medallist to win a world boxing title.

Dillon, aged 59, is now back full time at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield. New prospects need to be brought into the system and prepared for the European and World Championships, with the long-

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Craig Brich

"It's hard what we do, but that's boxing. It breaks people more than any other sport."

term focus towards Tokyo 2020. "We've pretty much operated with the thinking of those that medal will turn pro. It's rare that doesn't come to pass," he said.

"Then you've got those that we believed would do very well in the Olympics and haven't, for whatever reason. Sometimes, it's just down to being on the wrong side of a bad decision.

"We've got to pick them up and bring them on again so, hopefully, they get it right next time. You only get so many chances.

"It's my job to help bring through young boxers and that's where a lot of our attention will be going.

"We look at some youth boxers, so our age range is 17-18 up to about 40, which is the senior limit. Audley Harrison was 29 when he went to the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"It's hard what we do, but that's boxing. It breaks people more than any other sport. Coming here doesn't suit everybody, but it's what you need to do to get to the top."

Dillon is a three-star AIBA boxing coach and has been employed full-time at the EIS for six years, having previously worked part-time for GB since 1999.

One Black Country cohort now on the fighting

team is Darlaston's Benjamin Whittaker, 19, who was picked for the podium squad in May.

None of Dillon's fighters at club level have ever represented GB, despite the Lions alumni containing a host of national champions and internationals.

Andrew Price, James Price, Luke Richards, Ricky Summers and Connor Jones all featured for England, but no further. Dillon still rates Jones and the late Thomas Hickinbottom – who tragically died aged 14 in 2003 after a freak road accident – among the most talented boxers he's seen first-hand.

He speaks from a lifetime of experience in the game which started when he was 11, at Kinver and then Warley Boxing Club.

He later became head coach for Warley before starting Lions in 2000, which continues to be a family-run establishment.

Corner

Julie is treasurer and also an accredited judge while son Kevin, 32, is a trainer. Then there's the imposing figure of head coach John Shakespeare, who reached a national final himself boxing for Warley in the 1987 senior ABA competition.

Dillon can still work the corner at club level and does so for Lions members when his obligations allow. He gave a speech at the open day about what it takes to succeed in all areas of boxing.

He said: "Since the start of 2015, I've been to 18 different countries with my job and I wouldn't have it any other way.

"I've been away with work a lot and it's vital I've had the support of family. I'll be having a go at Tokyo and carrying on for as long as my heart is in it.

"You haven't got to be fight to be a part of something in this sport. You can contribute in so many different ways. At the club, most of the experienced boxers are also coaching and bringing the lads on.

"Sticking together is the way to succeed."



Bob Dillon, who works with Team GB boxers, seen here with Gary Tomlinson



Zain Ahmed, aged 18, is one of the Lions Boxing Club's young proteges



Visitors are gifted points by Glassboys

Stourbridge 0 Sutton Coldfield 1
OFF-COLOUR Stourbridge paid the price for a calamitous error followed by a lack of composure in the final third as they lost 1-0 at home to Sutton Coldfield on Monday night.

The Glassboys gifted Sutton the lead in first-half stoppage time when a short free-kick on the halfway line was played short between experienced duo Stuart Pierpoint and Leon Broadhurst.

Sutton's Stephen Palmer harassed his opponents and keeper Matt Gould horribly sliced the back pass under continued pressure with Danny O'Callaghan finding the empty net.

The visitors were reduced to 10 men when James Beresford was sent off for a second cynical foul on Matt Dodd five minutes into the second half.

It was all one-way traffic after that, but, despite having all of the ball, the disjointed hosts rarely troubled goal-keeper James Wren.

Marine 1 Stourbridge 1
BOSS Gary Hackett blasted the performance of referee Alan Bennett after watching Stourbridge rescue a 1-1 draw at Marine on Saturday.

The Glassboys had to wait until stoppage time to plunder a share of the spoils at the Marine Travel Arena.

Brandon Hague's header from a Justin Richards cross cancelled out a controversial four-minute penalty netted by Kurt Sherlock, awarded after Tom Tonks was deemed to have pulled down Michael Mongahan.

And Hackett said: "Marine benefited from a debatable penalty and unfortunately, we ended up talking about the referee a lot."

"That was one of the worst decisions and performances I have seen in many a year."

As much as I moan during games, it is not often that I criticise officials but this one certainly warranted it in my opinion.

"Sometimes, referees make incorrect decisions but still control things with authority but he got it wrong on both fronts. I don't like being critical but I felt it was justified on this occasion."

"It wasn't a case of being biased against us, he was just a poor ref for both teams and they felt exactly the same."

Tennis club courts more success after victorious summer

THIS summer has been a successful one for the tennis teams at Stourbridge Lawn Tennis and Squash Club on Sugar Loaf Lane.

The Ladies A team retained their position as champions of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Summer League by winning Division 1.

The Mens B and C Teams won their respective Divisions 2 and 3 to both gain promotion.

Additionally the one mens team that plays in the Staffordshire League, led by captain Steve Grove and featuring Richard Ashley-Smith, Tom White, Oli Kenward, Jack White and Fin Cook, won their Division 1 convincingly and also clinched promotion to the Premier Division.

Yeltz squander two-goal advantage



Kennedy Digie in action for Halesowen Town

YELTZ boss John Hill didn't really need to say anything post-match – the look on his face was enough.

An unlikely comeback, which saw visitors Ashton United wipe out a two-goal advantage in the final 15 minutes, left Hill once again cursing his team's concerning habit for letting a lead slip.

"At 2-0 up, that game was won," he said. "We were not under any serious threat and we should have seen it out comfortably. Now, somehow, we are sat here with only a point."

Frustratingly for Hill, this was third time in the space of as many weeks his team have surren-

Halesowen Town 2 Ashton Utd 2

dered a lead and the second occasion they have squandered a two-goal advantage.

The Yeltz took the lead with the only effort on target of the opening period, former Telford midfielder Jordan Goddard poking home. When Kaiman Anderson doubled the advantage seven minutes after the break the game looked over.

With 15 minutes left, Lee Knight pulled one back and with the clock about to tick into stoppage time, Lee Gaskell turned home substitute Jody Banim's cross.

STOUR CLOSE GATE ON RIVALS

Stourbridge 18 Harrogate 12
HARROGATE may have been at the wrong end of a five-game losing streak but they hadn't read the script and for much of this match looked well capable of upsetting Stour.

The hosts kicked an early penalty to the corner but missed touch and found themselves back in their 22 as Harrogate ran the ball at them.

A stalled maul saw Stour cough up scrum feed and a few phases later Harrogate flanker Jon Coser found a hole in the defences for the opening try, the only one of the opening half, although Harrogate full-back Charles Morgan did have an unsuccessful penalty attempt.

There was a determined air to Stour at the restart, outside half Luke White coolly slotting a 40m penalty kick for a tackle infringement. Stour countered a from a 22 dropout, scrum half Chris Easton slipped through a gap in the fringe defences and broke wide where he found replacement Billy Harding in support to feed Elvers as scoring pass.

Monster

White made amends for the missed conversion with a monster 44m effort when the visitors were penalised for holding on in the tackle. The game started to open up and the next score came from winger Joe Bridger.

A clear break by Joe Heatley went unrewarded when Stour were penalised for holding on in the tackle, Harrogate came back, kicked a penalty to the corner and launched a set of short range drives. Stour's defences looked to have held them out when a maul got held up, but referee Chris Bennett spotted an offence off the ball as Mukarati broke from the base of the scrum and Harding found himself cooling his heels in the sinbin for the rest of the game.

Back to the corner went Harrogate before launching a three-quarter attack that saw winger Oli Rosillo score in the corner.

This weekend week Stour make the trip up the M6 to take on Sale at their historic Heywood Road ground. Stourbridge Lions travel to Coventry to take on Barkers Butts in the RFU Intermediate cup.

● DK beat Crewe & Nantwich 53-12.



Stour centre Joe Heatley on the charge, leaving Harrogate defenders in his wake

Businesswomen tee off for golf day

WEST Midlands Law firm Higgs & Sons chipped in to host a golf day, the culmination of a series of driving range and practice sessions for complete novices.

The 12 businesswomen enjoyed nine holes at Hagley Golf & Country Club and the event

was hailed a success by all those taking part.

This is the second year running that Higgs has organised the six sessions and hosted the event.

Those taking part were: From Higgs & Sons, Kirsty McEwen, Lucy Obrey, Nyree Applegarth,

Carole Maddock and Clare Langford; Kate Jones and Laura Healey from David Cutter & Co Chartered Accountants; April Pearson-Miatt of DRP Group Ltd; Jo-Anne Till of GT Access Ltd; Lisa Winters of Handelsbanken; Lesley Wilde of Wild Thing Ltd and Rachel Tucker.

Heathens miss out on play-off final

CRADLEY failed to haul back a 16-point deficit as rivals Birmingham progressed to the National League play-off final.

The Surestop Brummies claimed a 47-43 second leg win at Monmore Green on Monday night, securing a 20 point aggregate success for their 18th consecutive victory in all competitions.

The Perry Barr outfit knew they had done the majority of the hard work in last Wednesday's first leg, but were keen to beat their Midland rivals on their own shale for the second time this season.

With Cradley renowned for coming on strong in the latter stages of the meeting, the Brummies knew getting off to a good start was imperative.

A trio of 5-1s in the opening six races helped them to build a 10-point lead on the night with six heats remaining.

Heathens did once again claim maximum advantages of their own in heats 13 and 15, but a 5-1 from Tom Bacon and Jack Smith in the penultimate race was enough for the Brummies.

Tom Bacon top scored for the Brummies, taking the chequered flag in two of Birmingham's four 5-1s and kept home duo Ashley Morris and Max Clegg well and truly on their toes in heat 15.

Jack Smith was instrumental at reserve as he dropped just two points to a Cradley rider and held off British Under-19 Champion Max Clegg to secure a 5-1 with Tom Perry in heat six.

Tom Perry and Darryl Ritchings both enjoyed steady evenings against their former club while Lee Geary got the better of Cradley reserve Bradley Andrews at No.8.

CRADLEY 43: Ashley Morris 15, Max Clegg 11+2, Ben Hopwood 8, Joe Lawlor 3+1, Richard Andrews 3, Bradley Andrews 2+1, Ben Eastford (no.8) 1, James Purchase R/R.

BIRMINGHAM 47: Tom Bacon 11, Jack Smith 10+3, Jack Parkinson-Blackburn 7+3, Danny Ayres 7, Tom Perry 6+1, Darryl Ritchings 5+2, Lee Geary (no.8) 1, Danyon Hume R/R.

Youngster Tais down rivals for a bronze

A DUDLEY youngster claimed bronze in an international martial arts contest.

Tai Bowen, from Lower Gornal, started training in karate at the age of four, at the Central England Wado Ryu Karate Academy (CEWKA) in Wolverhampton.

Following the training and guidance of Sensei Stennett Harvey, Tai has developed to a level where he could compete at regional and national competitions. Aged eight, he was the youngest member of the CEWKA squad to compete in Berlin at the Banzai International Cup and achieved third place in the Under 10 Male Kata category.

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